

ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF FUNDING PUBLIC UNIVERSITY EDUCATION IN SOUTH
EAST, NIGERIA

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Abstract

Universities require alternative funding especially Public universities in South-East, Nigeria. As a result, this research was necessitated by the funding requirement of academic staff unions on the inadequate funds available for universities in Nigeria amidst series of strike actions. A survey research design was adopted for data collection utilizing a well structured questionnaire with a reliability index of 0.876, while percentages and frequency statistics represented in column were used to display the results. ANOVA was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance and the results revealed that there are various acceptable alternative sources of funding public universities in South-East, Nigeria. The study recommend that cost creative fund raising activities are an acceptable alternative source of fund raising in public universities in South-East Nigeria; also, use of sale of research products and services fund raising activities are an acceptable alternative source of fund raising in public universities in South-East Nigeria. The above acceptable sources of fund raising among others would raise adequate funds available for universities; this work is addressed to the stake holders, Government, university administrators, students and lecturer-parents and researchers who are interested in having empirical information on Public University funding in Nigeria.

Key words: Alternative Sources, Funding, Public universities, South-East, Nigeria

Introduction

Universities in South-East, Nigeria, especially the Public universities require funding that is stable and constant because under-funding of universities in South-East, Nigeria has become a recurring difficulty which results to negative consequences on teaching and research, more so, on the intellectual fight of educated people, (Akinyemi, 2013). The author stressed that the

issue of underfunding is a major agent of various difficulties that have affected quality in university education and it is shown in problems such as incessant strikes against non-payment of salaries/allowances, reduction of academic staff, lack of library books, journals, and dilapidated buildings, out-dated materials and abandoned projects among others.

Actually, these universities suffer difficulties of raising fund and lack of well experienced administrators with little or no experienced methods of raising funds definitely have bad consequences on teaching and research (Akinyemi, 2013). The author noted that low funding of the Nigerian universities is as a result of variation in the wealth of the country; experienced after the surplus oil revenue (oil boom) of 1970s; there was depression in the Nigerian economy until 1980s as the revenue experienced minimum increase while income per capita decreased. Furthermore, Jamb students' population increased while oil and non oil export receipts reduced, increasing tariff (import bills). However, to revamp the economy, in July 1986, Nigeria began to practice the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP), which is among the conditionality of International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank for improving the nation's Loan granting and to further improve the economy; thus, many of the policies subjected under SAP include rationalization of public expenditure (including subvention to public universities) Therefore, SAP as a result of Nigerian economic crisis has reduced government funding of universities, leading to budgetary restriction. Thus, our Universities before SAP could be said to be in a condition of good because resources that were available were similar to that available in different parts of the world However, attempts were made to solve the problem which includes cost – saving devices like minimization of laboratory – operative studies, reduction in academic field trip, restriction in the participation of educational consultation, restriction in buying of academic library books, journals and major laboratory facilities, restriction on new employment (especially academic staff), decline in research approvals and many more. Upon discovering that the method could not bring about visible advancement, attention have now been turned to other means of rising fund in universities in South-East, Nigeria.

Akpan, (2008) stated that after putting an end to school fees (tuition fees) in the universities in 1982 by the federal government, Universities started being under-funded till now. In the effort to solve the above underfunding problem, Universities have been compelled to start fund – raising plans in order to generate income and the Government of Nigeria instructed through the National Universities Commission (NUC) that all Federal Universities should source 10 percent of their periodic funds (budget) internally by different income generation method (Akinyemi, 2013). This led to a good number of the Nigerian Universities further engaged in various income generating activities such as printing press, bookshop, petrol station, conference hall, restaurant, Hotels, renting of lands, establishment of media houses, Use of cost creative fund raising events, Use of donations from alumni and civil society organizations, among others. The author stress that achievement of such ventures (like other public businesses) has been of very low standard and many a times conflicts with the aim of university education. It is essential to be able to measure the demands for achievement and the effect of these on training and research. It is against this background that the study set out to determine acceptable alternative sources of funding public universities of South-East, Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

In Nigeria, the national policy on education (2004, article 64) stated that universities shall make maximum contribution to the development of the nation by producing high level manpower according to the need of the nation. However, this objective of producing high level manpower can hardly be achieved with universities not adequately funded (Akpan 2008). The author, emphatically maintained that university education is underfunded and that inadequate funding put the university management under pressure thereby unable to provide the essential service as required above; hence in an attempt to solve these problems, universities engaged in cost-saving devices like, reduction in research grants, reduced number of field trips, restriction in the attendance of academic conferences, curtailment in the purchase of academic books, research grants and many others, yet to no avail.

Also, Omopuna and Abdulraheem, (2013) report that as a result of the above-mentioned reduction students' performance for research and teaching was now affected; thereby the

Nation's motive for universities to produce high level manpower is also defeated hence, to solve the problem of poor performance of students; Federal Government of Nigeria directed through the National Universities Commission (NUC) that all Federal Universities should generate 10 percent of their total yearly budget internally through various revenue diversification means. To achieve this 10 percent revenue, many Nigerian Universities engaged in different business ventures like hotels, printing press, petrol stations, and bookshops; but the performance of such ventures have been very poor and most often conflicts with the objective of university education – teaching and research; thus, rendering this solution of raising 10% ineffective. It is therefore, the interest of this study to determine other acceptable alternative sources of raising fund for universities in South-Nast Nigeria.

Objective of the study

The main objective of the study is to determine acceptable alternative sources of funding public universities in south-East, Nigeria. The specific objectives of the study include the following:

1. To find out the extent to which use of cost creative fund raising events is an alternative source of fund raising.
2. To find out the extent to which use of sale of research products and services is an alternative source of funding to the universities in South-East, Nigeria.

Research Questions

To achieve the objectives of the study, the following research questions were asked and their answers discovered in the course of the study.

1. To what extent does use of cost creative fund raising events is an acceptable alternative source of fund raising of public universities in south-East, Nigeria?
2. To what extent does use of sale of research products and services an acceptable alternative source of funding to the universities in South-East, Nigeria?

Hypotheses of the Study

The following hypotheses were formulated in the Null form

H₀₁: Use of cost creative fund raising events is not significantly an alternative source of fund raising of public universities in South-East, Nigeria.

H₀₂: Use of sale of research products and services is not significantly an alternative source of funding to the universities in South-East, Nigeria.

Brief History of South East Nigeria

South East Nigeria is one of the geopolitical zones of Nigeria, consisting of the following states: - Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu and Imo with its regional capital as Enugu; a major division in Nigeria created during the regime of President General Sani Abacha, (Wikipedia (2018). Therefore, it is important to note that Nigerian educational resources are often shared across the geopolitical zones but these zones are not carved out based on political location rather on states with similar cultures, ethnic groups and common history were classed in the same zone to allow for effective allocation of resources. South East Nigeria is the indigenous home land of the Igbo people (Wikipedia 2017). Furthermore, it is a cultural and common linguistic region in southern Nigeria. Thus, geographically, South-East is divided by the lower Niger River into two unequal sections – an eastern (which is the larger of the two) and a western section which is characterized by the diverse Igbo culture and Igbo language.

Literature Review

Public is of or pertaining to the community as a whole, provided by the government for the use of the community at large and maintained at the community's expense, Webster Encyclopedia (1992). Public university is maintained by taxes, supervised by local authorities Nigerian Universities Commission (NUC) and offering education of the public. University is an institution of higher education and research which grants academic in a variety of subjects and provides both under graduate and post graduate education Oxford Advanced Learners (2015). The essential services produced by the university include quality research output and quality graduates. Maintaining that University is a group of faculties providing higher education and manpower to grant academic degree, the teacher and the persons taught in such institution (Webster Encyclopedia, 1992).

According to Omopuna and Abdulharem, (2013) the concept and practice of quality in university education is a new fact but growing fast; stressing that the educational sector is

powerful and experiencing many difficulties in producing graduates that will be useful to the community. Onuka, (2009) added that there are different issues of New Public Management (NPM), an idea that some representatives in education sector wants to transmit profit making idea from public sector management. The author asserts that these representatives could mean Stakeholders in universities to include: Academic and Non Academic Staff, Students who use the services, government who provides fund, parents and industrialists or administrators who employ. These stakeholders have different ways or views that led to different methods of alternative fund rising. He also, observed major sources of revenues to Nigerian universities to include: Subventions from Government (Federal or States) formally referred to as NUC Grants Endowment Fund – To this contest means the income controlled by a body appointed by the council (Webster’s comprehensive Dictionary, 2010). Endowment funds” donors normally attach special instructions with it. Akinyemi, (2013) added other means of fund raising to include: Grants and Research funds for special projects, funds from the institutions own investments, interest from Short Term Fixed Deposit, Loan Debentures and Dividends receivable from stocks, interests on various types of loan; Hall Lodging Fees, income from rent of Quarters, non residential buildings and plots of land, income from sales of old and damaged Asset, establishment of commercial farms that is, crops and livestock.

Acceptance is explained as sources of fund that are worthy of being accepted, pleasing and welcome by stakeholders in university (Webster’s comprehensive Dictionary, 2010). Onuka, (2008) Maintain that government subvention covers about 91% of fund and is grossly inadequate. Therefore, Universities now require other sources of funding which should not hamper the aim of establishing university education. He therefore, suggest some alternative sources to include increased government subvention, reintroduction of tuition fees, increased philanthropic gestures and others, however he noted that only 35% of the population accepted the reintroduction of tuition as an alternative funding.

Nwankpa, (2016) asserts that Education is the cornerstone of a nation, culture and an absolute necessity for economic prosperity and development. Maintaining that there is hardly any

household in this South-Eastern States, that is not concerned about the state of our education system particularly the university system

Fund is financial resources set aside for a certain purpose (Webster's Encyclopedia Dictionary, (1992); Funding remained a critical factor in the provision of functional university education that can lead to a national transformation. Alternative shows one of two things which must be chosen (Webster's comprehensive Dictionary, 2010).

Akinyemi, (2013) investigated funding strategies for qualitative university education in developing economies using the experiences of the Nigerian Universities as a case study; Secondary data which were collected from the Federal Government of Nigeria's Office of Statistics and National Statistics Bureau and were utilized for analysis. The tuition fees analyzed were collected from the admission offices of the six public universities purposively elected from 72 public universities (both federal and state universities) in Nigeria. Since the pursuit of qualitative university education bothers on all stakeholders – the government, parents, individuals, firms and cooperate bodies, should make serious efforts regarding funding as an external factor and a necessary condition for achieving qualitative university education in developing economies

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework upon which this study is based on is the sustainability theory. Sustainability theory was propounded by the former Norwegian Prime Minister, Gro Harlem Brundtland in 1987 who argued that development is not sustainable except it meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (WCED, 1987). The theory assumes that management of public universities in South-East Nigeria always works in the interest of the universities. He further assumed that sustainability must seek a way to balance the obligations of the present and the future therefore, striking a balance between economic, social and environmental qualities and fulfils important needs and values (quality of life). The question of sustainability essentially amount to a question about future generations: What we owe the future; but settling what we owe to the future involves

moral challenges of priority. This generally asks a question of acceptability. In finding alternative source of funding in public universities in South-East Nigeria, the management should also consider what will not cause more crises. The benchmark for acceptability must depend on which alternative funding source that achieves the university objectives without hampering on benefits of the future generation of both students and researches alike. It emphasizes that making of profit as core university target should not be at the detriment of the people and environmental values.

Economic models of sustainability propose to sustain opportunity, usually in the form of capital (Jenkins, 2008). According to Solow (1993), sustainability should be viewed as an investment problem in which we must use returns from the use of natural resources to create new opportunities of equal or greater value. Sen (1999) agrees that it is in creating options for today's poor that we create options for the future, because more options will drive greater development. This informs that in finding creative alternative source of funding, tuition is reduced in universities in South-East Nigeria and more opportunities are created for the willing poor to gain academic training.

While sustainability theory proposes a Pareto-optimality (a situation in which one is made better off without making another worse off) between the present and the future, supports acceptable alternative source of funding and creating opportunity for future students and researcher alike, it places this huge responsibility on the management of these public universities in South-East Nigeria, neglecting that these management staff/agents have their own interest that mostly differ from those of the owners (Agency theory). The study concludes that funds being the bedrock of research and activities will be made available through these alterative sources.

Empirical Review

Mopelola and Akinyemi, (2013) examined the difficulty of raising income for university in maturing providence developing economics which have become a continuous difficulty which

result to a negative consequences on training and analysis and the running away of educated peoples. Their study made use of inferior information which was obtained from the National Bureau of Statistics. Knowing that the proceeding of standard university training bothered on all awarders – the government, parents, and student's partners and co-operate companies recognized raising fund as an outstanding agent and an essential situation for obtaining a standard university education in maturing providence.

Malawi, (2014) investigated examined alternative sources of internal revenue drives in Adamawa state university, Mubi. The methodology utilized in this paper was the observation and identification of alternative sources of revenues in addition to registration fees and other charges. Descriptive statistics was utilized in analyzing the data obtained from the study. The results revealed that mean response was ≥ 5 ; indicating that the University needs additional sources of revenues to supplement budgeted revenue. This implied that there were more internal sources of revenues yet untapped in the University. The study recommended for exploration of untapped sources of revenue to assist the university to execute more programs and projects that will create value and quality knowledge in Adamawa State University, Mubi.

Orkodashvili (2009) compared and contrasted maximum education means of raising fund and method in the U.S and the UK. The methodology applied in the study was a case study comparative analysis. The study used secondary data. The objective of the study was to access parents, teachers and scholar determine some different means of raising fund in universities in Nigeria. Tabulated unidirectional experiments method was used and questionnaire was utilized in data collection. Analysis was carried out using percentage and different analysis. The outcome revealed that they agreed on free education, achievement of scientific technique, workers swap activities. She recommends Preventing fraud repetition and grants to help in funding but refused engaging in business like Lodging, payment of school fees, degree awarding fee, payment of tax, engaging in businesses inside the university for raising fund. It was suggested that the income of the community need to be standard if the community may be at rest to help in raising fund.

While, Akpan, (2008) examined the other means of raising fund for university training in Nigeria. The author aimed at determining how parents, teachers and university scholar points out other means of raising fund for training in Nigeria. Two research questions were brought out and tabulated unidirectional experiment method was used in obtaining 677 parents, 679 scholar and 309 teachers for the study. Questionnaire was utilized for data collection and was analyzed using percentage and different analysis. Thus, findings revealed that they agreed on free education, achievement of scientific technique, workers swap activities, and grants but refused engaging in business, lodging, payment of school fees, degree awarding fee, and payment of tax and engaging in business inside the universities as another means of raising fund for university training.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design: The study employed the survey research method through the use of questionnaire. Tables and simple percentages were adapted in analyzing data

The area of the study: Includes all federal universities in the South-East, Nigeria which includes University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Federal University Ndufu – Alike Ikwo, Micheal Okpara University Umudike, Federal University of Technology Owerri and Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka.

Population of the study

Population of the study was 500 (five hundred respondents. Population was five hundred (500) respondents spread across the lecturers in Accountancy department, lecturer parents, and students.

Determination of Sample Size

The study used all the population as sample size because of its small nature.

Method of Data Generation

The study used primary source of data generation.

Data was generated through information obtained which involved the use of questionnaires.

Method of Data Analysis

Data analysis was through the use of frequency, percentages and single factor ANOVA. The single factor ANOVA was adopted to measure the variance in the responses. Where the calculated F is greater than the critical table value of F. It implies that cost creative fund raising activities are an acceptable alternative source of fund raising in public universities in South-East Nigeria.

The instrument was subjected to face and content validity by experts in the field of accountancy department and the pilot study; while the test-retest method was used to test for the reliability of the instruments. This test was to determine the consistency of their responses to the questionnaire. Also, combat alpha which performed very well with a value of 0.876 which indicate a high measure of internal consistency (data is reliable)

Model Specification

The following model was utilized:

$$SSB = r \sum (X_{ij} - \bar{x})^2$$

$$SSB = \sum \sum (X_{ij} - \bar{x})^2$$

Where SSB = between sum of square

SSW = within treat sum of the square

X_{ij} = individual observation around their column mean

\bar{x} = grand mean column

Df = degree of freedom (c – 1) (in 1)

C = number of column

R = number of row

\sum = summation

Level of significant (0.05)

Table 1: Cronbach alpha reliability of data

Cronbach Reliability and Correlation Test

Cronbach Alpha Number of Items .876 15

Cronbach's Alpha			
0.87615			
Cronbach's Alpha with missing item			
SD	D	SA	A
-0.70995	-2.06201	0.366482	0.898158
Split-half			
Halves	0.894323		
OddEven	-0.71227		

Source: Microsoft excel toolkit 2007.

The table above examines the properties of measurement scales and the items that compose the scales. Ideally, the Cronbach alpha coefficient should be about 0.7 (Pallant, 2001). The Cronbach coefficient for the study performed very well with a value of .876 and this indicates that the scales and the items of the research instrument show a high measure of internal consistency (data is reliable).

Objective One

ANOVA: Single Factor

Table :Determinant at which cost creative fund raising events is an alternative source of fund raising

SUMMARY

<i>Groups</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Sum</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Variance</i>
Column 1	10	2706	270.6	8082.489
Column 2	10	1474	147.4	4790.933
Column 3	10	483	48.3	8033.789

Column 4 10 337 33.7 726.2333

ANOVA

<i>Source of Variation</i>	<i>SS</i>	<i>Df</i>	<i>MS</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>P-value</i>	<i>F crit</i>
Between Groups	359197	3	119732.3	22.13838	2.68E-08	2.866265557
Within Groups	194701	36	5408.361			
Total	553898	39				

Decision Rule:

Reject H_0 if $F - \text{calculated}$ is greater than or equal to $F - \text{critical value}$.

1. $F - \text{Cal} = 22.138$ $F - \text{Tab} = 2.866$

Since the calculated F is greater than the critical table value of F which is 22.138 that is, $22.138 > 2.866$. We reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis at a 0.05 level of significance; thus, cost creative fund raising is event is an acceptable alternative source of fund raising in public universities in South-East Nigeria.

Anova: Single Factor

SUMMARY

<i>Groups</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Sum</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Variance</i>
Column 1	9	3070	341.11	17711
Column 2	9	785	87.222	2719.4
Column 3	9	384	42.667	8490.5
Column 4	9	341	37.889	3910.4

ANOVA

<i>Source of Variation</i>	<i>SS</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>MS</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>P-value</i>	<i>F crit</i>
Between Groups	562307	3	187436	22.836	4.3E-08	2.90112
Within Groups	262651	32	8207.9			
Total	824958	35				

Anova: Single Factor

Use of sale of research products and services are significantly an alternative source of funding to the universities in South-East, Nigeria (H_{03}) however since at 5% level of significance and 95% confidence level it was found that the calculated F is greater than the critical table value of F

which is 22.813 that is, $22.813 > 2.901$. We reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis at a 0.05 level of significance; which is also, in line with Akinyemi, (2013) who noted that low funding is as a result of variation in the wealth of the country; experienced after the surplus oil revenue (oil boom) of 1970s; However, attempts were made to solve the problem which includes cost – saving devices like minimization of laboratory – operative studies, reduction in academic field trip, and many more. Upon discovering that the method could not bring about visible advancement, attention have now been turned to other means of rising fund which the author mentioned as levies, commercial farming, establishment of media houses, tuition (school fees), Thus, use of research products and services fund raising event(s) is an acceptable alternative source of fund raising in public universities in South-East Nigeria

Summary of Findings

The study made the following findings: At 5% level of significance and 95% confidence level it was found that the calculated F is greater than the critical table value of F which is 22.138 that is, $22.138 > 2.866$. We reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis at a 0.05 level of significance; thus, cost creative fund raising is activities is an acceptable alternative source of fund raising in public universities in South-East Nigeria. Therefore, the researcher deduced that cost creative fund raising is activities is an acceptable alternative source of fund raising in public universities in South-East Nigeria.

Conclusion

This study conclude that there are other sources of fund raising in Nigerian public universities but some are acceptable to stake holders like parents, governments and even lecturers and the universities administrators and that the use of acceptable alternative fund raising events, such as cost creative events significantly and positively affect funding universities; also, the use of acceptable alternative fund raising events, such as use of research products and services significantly and positively affect funding universities

Recommendation

Since, the use of acceptable alternative fund raising events, such as cost creative events should be utilized as an acceptable mode of fund raising. The government should enforce use of it, thereby reduce total reliance on government subventions. The use of acceptable alternative fund

raising events, such as use of sale of research products and services significantly and positively affect funding universities, thus, public universities should continue its application.

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- DATA

Determinant at which cost creative fund raising events is an alternative source of fund raising

S/N	Questionnaire	SA	A	SD	D
1	Cost creative fund raising events is an acceptable alternative funding activities in your University's funding	300	150	10	40
2	Cost creative fund raising events like one-day online, guest speaker and foot-ball is an acceptable alternative funding aid the state of your University's funding	330	120	20	30
3	Skydive and 5k/marathon fund raising events do not have any significance to your university's funding	56	44	300	100
4	Donation match drive fund raising events and operation show your handwork is better than increase in tuition, education levy, privatization as alternative sources of fund raising	350	140	6	4
5	You agree with the views of personal challenge events as alternative means of funding your university	230	220	20	30
6	Your University should embark more on 3 face book live fund raising events	300	100	56	44
7	As a parent of the university student you surpport Gulf marathon fund raising events as a good means of fund raising in universities	280	170	20	30
8	AS a student you support peer to peer fund raising events as a good means of fund raising in universities	195	295	6	4
9	As a stakeholder you support cost creative fund raising as an excellent	330	120	30	20

means of fund raising in university

10	There are possible effects of cost creative fund raising events as acceptable alternative sources of fund raising in your university	335	115	15	35
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Table 1 Continues. Determination of the extent at which use of sale of research products and services is an acceptable alternative source of fund raising to the universities in South-East Nigeria

S/N	Questionnaire								
	Use of research products and services								
11	example no staff hotel fund raising is an acceptable alternative funding activities in your University's funding	45 0	40	4	6				
	Use of research products and services like luxury rooms and using Nano technology								
12	textile products in guest rooms would significantly affect fund raising events as an acceptable alternative fund raising in your University	39 0	10	5 0	5 0	39	90	5	15
	You agree with the views of research								
13	product and services like Robots for cleaning services as acceptable alternative means of fund raising in your university	28 0	12 0	5 0	5 0				
	Use of sale of new tourism products like health tourism, agril-tourism of research								
14	products and services fund raising activities as acceptable alternative sources of fund raising in the universities	34 0	10 0	3 0	3 0				

	Your university's ability to seriously progress				
15	in use of sale of research product and services would be an acceptable alternative source of fund raising in your university Stakeholders (Government, parents, individuals, firms, lecturers and students,)	40	60	1	3
		0		0	0
16	defer in their views on using sale of research product and services as acceptable alternative sources of fund raising in your university	41	50	2	2
		0		0	0
17	You agree that sale of research product and services example styling product or camera as acceptable alternative means of fund raising in your university should be expanded Stakeholders (Government, parents, individuals, firms, lecturers and students,)	410	80	4	6
18	recognize use of sale of research product (journal) and services as acceptable alternative sources of fund raising in your university	390	190	5	15

Composition of the Population of the Study

S/N	Universities	Respondents			Total
		Lecturers	Parent lecturers	Students	
1.	University of Nigeria, Nsukka,	22	28	65	115
2.	Federal University Ndufu – Alike Ikwo,	20	25	60	105
3.	Micheal Okpara University Umudike,	18	20	52	90
4.	Fed. University of Technology Owerri	12	28	55	95
5.	Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka	15	40	40	95
TOTAL					500

Source; Questionnaire 2017 (A Department of each sampled University in South-East Nigeria)