



**TERTIARY EDUCATION TRUST FUND (TETFUND) AND PHYSICAL
INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS
IN BAUCHI STATE OF NIGERIA: A STUDY OF ABUBAKAR
TAFAWA BALEWA UNIVERSITY BAUCHI (2012-2019)**

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ABSTRACT

The study examined the effect of Tertiary Education Trust Fund intervention on infrastructural development in Tertiary institution in Bauchi state. The study utilized both primary and secondary method of data collection. Descriptive and used to present data, inferential Statistics was used to analyzed the data while content analysis was used to analysis the secondary data. Weighed Mean score was used to validate the research propositions using the decision rule of 3.00. Institutional Theory as propounded by Meyer and Rowan (1977) was adopted as theoretical framework. Findings from the study revealed that the state of physical infrastructure in Abubakar Tafawa Balewa Bauchi before the TETFUND intervention were inadequate and dysfunctional. Findings from the study also show that, TETFund as intervention agency has addressed some of the challenges of physical infrastructure in Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi. The study recommends that, Government at different levels should be committed to educational development instead of leaving the whole weight to TETFund that is even a supporting agency. Emphasis should be on development and maintenance of physical infrastructure to avoid decay of critical infrastructure. The government should review the current 2% company tax. This is because the major source of funding available to the TETFund

remains the 2% tax collected from the companies the 2% tax from accessible profit of registered companies in Nigeria, which need to be reviewed to a range between 3% to 5% so as to provide enough funding for the agency to execute her major objectives.

Keywords: *Physical, Infrastructure, Development, Tertiary Institutions, Nigeria.*

Background to the Study

The Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) was originally established as Education Trust Fund (ETF) by the Education Tax Act No. 7 of 1993 as amended by Act No. 40 of 1998. The fund had a mandate to operate as an intervention fund to all levels of public education (Federal, State and Local). Though the Act was amended by Act No. 40 of 1998, the agency had so many challenges that made it not functional. For example it was over burdened and over stretched coupled with duplication of functions and mandate of other agencies such as Universal Basic Education (UBE) and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and funds were thinly spread and made no significant impact on the dilapidated facilities in tertiary institutions (Bogoro, 2015). The funds are disbursed for the general improvement of education in Federal and States tertiary educational institutions specifically for the provision or maintenance of:

- 1) Essential physical infrastructure for teaching and learning;
- 2) Instructional material and equipment;
- 3) Research and publication;
- 4) Academic staff training and development; and
- 5) Any other need which, in the opinion of the Board of Trustees, is critical and essential for the improvement and maintenance of standards in the higher educational institutions. Article 5 (b and c) supports staff development efforts in the universities as compulsory for institutions to ensure that their staff members are actively engaged in “research, appropriate training, resources and support”.

Statement of the Problem

This study seeks to investigate the extent of Tertiary Education Trust fund intervention on physical infrastructure development in Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi.

The poor state of infrastructure in Bauchi State Tertiary Institutions has poses great questions on the ability of TETFund to carryout its constitutional role of implementing intervention projects in tertiary institution in Bauchi State. It was also been notice that, the process of accessing funds from TETFund is quite complicated thereby leading to delayed in the approval of funds for the intervention projects. The problem of TETFund in the disbursement of funds depends on the discretion of the board of trustees which makes it rather difficult and sometimes impossible to provide the desire physical infrastructure to the tertiary institutions in Bauchi State. The most challenges situation with the condition of infrastructure in most tertiary institution in Bauchi State is the fact that, TETFund focuses more on the provision of new infrastructure while little attention given to the maintenance of existing infrastructure.

Objective of the Study

The aim of this study is to investigate the extent to which TETFUND intervention projects have enhanced physical infrastructural development at Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi. The specific of objectives of the study include:

Research Propositions

The following propositions were formulated to guide the study:

- i. The state of physical infrastructure in Abubakar Tafawa Balewa Bauchi before the TETFUND intervention is good state.
- ii. TETFUND intervention has effectively improved the state of physical infrastructures in Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Bauchi.
- iii. TETFUND intervention has addressed the challenges of physical infrastructure in Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi.
- iv. TETFund faces challenges of infrastructure development in Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University,.

Significance of the study

Academically, many studies conducted in the area of TETFund intervention programme focused mostly on human capital development such as training and development of academic and non-academic staffs. Little attention is given to infrastructural development aspect of the intervention. More also, the empirical

results of previous research work on TETFund intervention programme and its relationship in term of development and expansion educational system in Nigeria may no more be applicable to the recent challenges in the country.

Scope of the Study

The amount of data requires to carryout comprehensive study on TETFund Intervention in all tertiary institutions in Nigeria is too large handle. This compelled the researcher to limit the scope of this study to TETFund Intervention in tertiary institutions in Bauchi.

The researcher was also compelled to limit its scope to only the infrastructural aspect of the TETFund Intervention Project. This is because TETFund has many Intervention programme ranging from Normal and Special projects, High Impact, Library, Books Development, National Research Grant to Training and Development. Others include Academic manuscript Development, Academic/ Research Journal Development, Institutional Based Research and Programme Content Development. Therefore, the attention of this study is drawn infrastructure tertiary institutions in Bauchi due to the challenges of infrastructural development ATBU Bauchi.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Conceptual Clarification

Variables related to the study will be review under this chapter. Conceptual issues such as TETFUND intervention, infrastructural development, challenges to TETFUND intervention will be reviewed. The provision and development of infrastructures has been the subject of much theoretical analysis and empirical studies.

Concept of TETFund Intervention

In emphasizing the importance of TETFund intervention to the educational Sector, Ogunde, (2011) affirms that, TETFund Intervention is the fund given to institutions that cover the post-secondary section of national education system. These include Universities, Polytechnics, Colleges of Technology and Education, the Advanced Teachers' Training Colleges, Correspondence Colleges and other higher institutions that are provided with infrastructural facilities due to inadequate funding of these institutions in Nigeria.

TETFund as an interventional measure of the Federal Government to tackle inadequate facilities in our tertiary institutions. However, the provision of Infrastructural development in Tertiary Institution in Nigeria by only TETFund cannot resolve the Infrastructural development in our in Tertiary Institutions. Adeleye (2013) further agreed with the position of TETFund Panorama, (2013), Adeleye (2013) opined that, the reason for having the TETFUND is actually to assist public tertiary education programme. The TETFund therefore does not put into consideration the management of private tertiary institutions within the country. This on its part has led to much argument for the review of this trend. The mission of the body as spelt out is: To provide focused and transformative intervention in public tertiary institutions in Nigeria through funding and effective project management (TETFund website). TETFund through its activities has also seen to the management of other non-financial needs of the various levels of education in the country.

By this definition, The Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) has been intervening in the management of universities in Nigeria through a number of activities. Over the years, the TETFUND has assisted Tertiary institution in a number of ways which includes:

- i. Funding
- ii. Staff training and development
- iii. Projects facilitation

Under the funding activities, TETFund, funds are usually set aside to assist public tertiary institutions to execute most of their programmes whether it is in the short-run or long-run. This is to ensure that the presence of TETFund is felt in almost all the public tertiary institutions in the country. However, a critical analysis of this role of the TETFUND has revealed that most of these institutions are continually in dire need of money to be able to meet up with their plans and programmes. Therefore, since most of these institutions relatively do not feel the impact of these funding roles in their institutions, it is needful that some conditions be considered before this gesture is extended to most of these institutions in the country.

Concept of Education

Education consists of an activity which promotes learning. Idialu and Idialu (2012) described education as a process of providing the necessary knowledge for guiding and assisting human beings towards a more self-rewarding and

desired life as well as for the good of the society. Education is a necessary tool for effective living and development of a man. An educational institution refers to all institutions offering education right from primary schools through secondary education up to tertiary institutions such as the Universities, Colleges of Education, Polytechnics, Monotechnics and those offering correspondence courses (Odiba, 2011, Idialu, et al 2012). It is where students are expected to acquire certificates in their chosen fields of study and be equipped with skills and competencies required for work at the end of their study.

Infrastructure and Educational Development

The role of infrastructure in transforming education for sustainable national development cannot be overemphasized. Infrastructure investment and its consumption services have significant implications for achieving sustainable developmental objectives in educational institutions (Isibor, 2013). Infrastructural development in education may encourage new investment and research in the institution. They may underpin many aspects of economic and social activities which may facilitate the flow of ideas, goods and services within the institution (Usman, 2014). Large scale investment in infrastructural development in education may have significant environmental impacts and generate a range of externalities in their production and consumption of research output. This may promote efficient resource allocation through easier access for labour and materials to particular localities thereby allowing alternative activities, employment opportunities and investment to emerge. Infrastructural development facilitates regional economic growth among institutions (Oseni, 2012) by maintaining an inclusive, healthy and productive workforce within an institution.

Educational Support/Funding in Nigeria

To further explain what is Education and the rationale for Educational Funding in Nigeria, Ajeyalemi (2009) asserted that, Education constitutes the very foundation of meaningful socio – economic, political growth and development of any nation. No wonder the federal Government of Nigeria adopted education as an instrument par excellence for affecting national development.

It was as a result of the premium placed on education that made the federal government in 1969 to organize the first ever national curriculum conference in education and that the outcomes and resolutions of that curriculum conference gave rise to the national policy on education which was first published in 1977 and has been revised in 1981, 1996, and 2004 respectively; which all involved

a huge amount of funds. Since the implementation of the national policy on education in 1981, there have been a lot of innovations and reforms in the education system.

TETFund Act and its Intervention in Nigeria Tertiary Institution

The Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND) was established by an Act of the National Assembly in June 2011. The Act replaced the Education Tax Fund Act Cap. E4 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 and Education Tax Fund (Amendment) Act No 17, 2003. Guidelines on assessing TETFUND (2015) asserted that Fund was set up to administer and disburse education tax collections to the Federal and State tertiary educational institutions in Nigeria. The main source of income available to the Fund is the 2% education tax paid from the assessable profit of companies registered in Nigeria. The levies are collected by the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) (Ugwuanyi, 2014).

Overview of Infrastructural Development in Nigeria

It is necessary to overview some key aspects of Nigeria economy which has negatively influenced development process as a result of poor infrastructural facilities. The reason for this is to give hindsight to the levels of decadence in the nation's infrastructure. One of the most affected is the energy sector which has continue to receive undue castrated ovation and propaganda in Nigeria as one government come and go.

According to Mahdi (2004:36) the most spectacular failure of successive Nigeria Governments from 1966 to date, which actually borders on criminality have been in the field of energy and power supply. The failure reached its peak to date ... if there was an area which needed concentration, which in fact requires the declaration of a state of emergency in the country, should be in the area of provision of power.

Inadequacies in Infrastructure Development in Nigeria

According to Ezeogidi (2014), to say that one of the major problems that bedevilled the process of development in Nigeria is the state of poor infrastructural facilities, is neither an over statement nor a criticism. It is a fact that is surrounded by evidences. It is reflected in almost all the sectors of the Nigeria economy and it is directly and indirectly affecting Global economy.

This is because poor infrastructural facilities have systematically led to the present day underdevelopment with the associated high unemployment level and poverty which has led to frustration and desperation. It also led to different kinds of criminalities and migration from Nigeria to other countries especially to countries in Southern Africa, Europe and America.

Effects of Inadequate Funding On Performance of Tertiary Institutions on Infrastructure

The problem of underfunding which is a major challenge confronting the Nigerian University system has had adverse effects on the performance of the universities. Fasihul (2013) notes that the by-effects of dwindling finances in the Nigeria University system are explicated in many adaptive mechanisms such as: (i) Curtailing of laboratory/practical classes. (ii) Limited number of field trips. (iii) Reduction in the rate of attendance of academic conferences. (iv) Reduction in the purchase of library books, chemicals and basic laboratory equipment. (v) Embargo on new employment (vi) Embargo on study fellowships and (vii) Reduction in research grants away others.

Causes of Poor Infrastructure Development in Bauchi State

The truth remains that the major causes of poor infrastructure development that permeate Bauchi State and indeed Nigeria find their roots in the structural, systemic and socio-political lapses that are inherent from the past historical realities of colonial administration. This is worsened in the contemporary experience of the neo-colonialism, militarism and the current political maneuvering of the present bourgeois democrats. There has been no clear and implemented political manifesto and ideology with regards to good governance in Bauchi State especially since independence. Habu (2008:156) asserted that: One of the challenges of development process in Nigeria as in other African societies has been most pronounced in the area of good governance... it lies with the operators of the system of governance in the country, the local and International elites and their perception of what democracy entails, represents and meant for society.

Empirical Review

State of physical infrastructure in Abubakar Tafawa Balewa Bauchi Bauchi before the TETFUND intervention

Afolayan (2015) examined the trend in funding of higher education in Nigeria and the attendant effect 2009 and 2013. The paper observed some gaps in the funding and in the expenditure of the available funds. The study analyses the response to the report of the Needs Assessment of Nigeria Universities in 2012, where the federal government earmarked the sum of #1. 3 trillion for special intervention for public universities over 6 years, of which only #200 billion of the sum was released. The paper made some recommendations for future government interventions.

Effectiveness of TETFUND intervention on the state of physical infrastructures in Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Bauchi.

Bogoro (2015:23), in his work on sustainability of higher education in Nigeria, opined that “ foreign training is a necessity for the creation of a pool of scientific personnel required for the sustenance of research and development activities in the Third World and will remain so for the foreseeable future. These advanced countries have the infrastructure, the human resources and capacity to train personnel to the highest international levels”.

TETFUND intervention has addressed some of the challenges of physical infrastructure in Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi.

Onyeike & Emmanuel (2014) examined the role of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) in the management of University education in Nigeria. A brief history of University education in Nigeria as well as the creation of TETFund was examined. Also the paper was guided with the use the Management by Objectives theory developed by Drucker in 1954. Emphases were laid on the basic functions of TETFund such as that of project facilitation, funding and staff development. The challenges confronting TETFund and ways of improving TETFund’s relevance in Universities in Nigeria were also discussed. It was concluded that if well co-ordinated, TETFund can help to boost the structure of University education in Nigeria. It was therefore recommended that various private organizations should contribute to the empowerment of TETFund and

appropriate legislations should be made to assist the agency carry out its activities effectively.

Theoretical Review

Institutional Theory

For the purpose of this study, Institutional Theory as propounded by Meyer and Rowan (1977) was adopted as theoretical framework. This is because organizations do not operate in a vacuum. They deal with a multitude of external influences, such as cultural differences, legal requirements, conventions, and norms, and with the demands raised by a diversity of actors, e.g., suppliers, customers, regulatory agencies, NGOs, or trade unions. Efficiency, from this point of view, is subject to constant, collective redefinition.

Institutional theory has four basic streams: historical institutionalism, sociological institutionalism, new institutionalism, and local order or actor institutionalism. Each develops a more or less specific set of theoretical as well as empirically grounded interpretations. Each also covers major facets of what institutionalization processes are. Political and administrative machineries experience path dependencies. They are embedded in societal environments. They function like specific social systems. In this study, new institutionalism will be used as tool of analysis.

New Institutional theory streams have become leading and widely shared references in political science and administration (Frederickson 1999). Because they consider public institutions through three different lenses - as pillars of political order, as outcomes of societal values, and as self-constructed social systems, they offer exciting arenas for academic debates as well as they also provide pragmatic or architectonic principles. This means that, Institutional theory is a theory on the deeper and more resilient aspects of social structure. It considers the processes by which structures, including schemes; rules, norms, and routines, become established as authoritative guidelines for social behaviour.

Summary of Gaps

From all the studies reviewed in 2.3 above on Tertiary Education Trust Fund, there is still gap that require further studies. For instance, A study by Adavbiele in 2016 only investigate the impact of education Trust Fund on tertiary

institution taking a core look at college of education, Ekiadolor as the case study in Benin Municipal Council of Edo state in Nigeria.

Of all the study reviewed above, none of the study assesses the impact of TETFund intervention on infrastructural development in Abubakar Tafa Balewa University Bauchi.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The study employed mix research design comprising of Survey, documentary and case studies design. The reason for adopting survey is because it often focuses on the characteristics of a population. It also gives valid and reliable information and the result can be analysed easily for quick action or necessary intervention. The rationale for choosing documentary design is that, it is conducted to review a set of documents for historical or social value and to create a larger narrative through the study of multiple documents surrounding the issues of TETFUND interventions. Survey design was adopted in order to assist the researcher answered the questions of why and how TETFUND interventions has improved in physical infrastructural development at Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi.

Population, Sample and Sampling Techniques

The population of this study consist of; contractors, work department, physical and planning unit, TETFund tesk officers and council members in the selected Tertiary Institution in Bauchi State (Tafawa Balewa Unversity Bauchi,. Contractors, Works Department, Physical Planning Unit, TETFund desk officials in Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi. and Council Members.

Table 3.1: Showing distribution of sample size

S/N	Target Population	Total Population ATBU Bauchi
1.	Contractors,	137
2.	Works Department	16
3.	Physical and Planning Unit	19

4.	TETFund Desk Officers ATBU Bauchi	2
5.	Council Members	7
	Total	181

Source: Author's Computation, 2021

Methods of Data collection

The study utilized both primary and secondary method of data collection. The primary data consists of Questionnaire, Interview and personal observation while, secondary method consists past records and other related documents on the TETFund and Infrastructural development.

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

Table 4.1: Effectiveness of TETFUND intervention on the state of physical infrastructures in Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University

		Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Highly Ineffective	22	12.2	6.1
	Ineffective	54	29.8	31.0
	Undecided	24	13.3	39.3
	Effective	71	39.2	74.6
	Highly Effective	10	5.5	100.0
	Total		181	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2021

The above table shows that, 22 respondents representing 12.2% were of the opinion that TETFUND intervention on the state of physical infrastructures in Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University is Highly Ineffective, 54 respondents representing 29.8% were of the opinion that TETFUND intervention on the state of physical infrastructures in Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University is Ineffective. 24 respondents representing 13.3% could not ascertain whether the TETFUND intervention on the state of physical infrastructures in Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University is effective or not. 71 respondents representing 39.2% were of the opinion that TETFUND intervention on the state of physical

infrastructures in Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University is effective while, 10 respondents representing 5.5% were of the opinion that TETFUND intervention on the state of physical infrastructures in Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University is highly effective.

The state of physical infrastructure in Abubakar Tafawa Balewa Bauchi before the TETFUND intervention is adequate and functional.

Table 4.2: Calculation of Critical Value of Weighted Means Score

Variable	HA	A	U	I	HI	Total Respondents/Score	Number of Weighted Mean
Responses	22	54	24	71	10	181	425/181
Grading	5	4	3	2	1	-	-
Total Value	10	109	82	223	21	425/181	2.3
Decision	-	-	-	-	-	-	Invalid

Source: Author’s Computation, 2021

The result of the calculated weighted means score $X^2 = 2.3$. The calculated X^2 value is scientifically invalid because the calculated X^2 value is less than or equal to ≥ 2.00 . The study therefore invalidates the earlier stated the proposition which stated that, “the state of physical infrastructure in Abubakar Tafawa Balewa Bauchi before the TETFUND intervention is adequate and functional. From the analysis, the study concludes that, the state of physical infrastructure in Abubakar Tafawa Balewa Bauchi before the TETFUND intervention is inadequate and dysfunctional”. This finding is line with the interview conducted “The laboratories and the Faculty/Departmental libraries stock are all obsolete, there are aging facilities, dilapidated furniture and degrading infrastructure, combined with explosion in student enrolment against diminishing funds. This was occasion by arbitrary drop in the capital project allocation from Federal Government after the University has been told what to expect puts the University in a difficult position with a potential for ending up with

uncompleted capital projects” (Interviewed, Directors of Physical Planning ATBU, May, 2021)

Calculation of Critical Value of Weighted Means Score

Variable	SA	A	D	SD	U	Total Respondents/Score	Number of Weighted Mean
Responses	48	99	24	6	4	181	486/181
Grading	5	4	3	2	1	-	-
Total Value	104	325	39	14	4	486/181	2.7
Decision	-	-	-	-	-	-	Valid

Source: Author’s Computation, 2021

The result of the calculated weighted means score $X^2 = 2.7$. The calculated X^2 value is scientifically valid because the calculated X^2 value is greater than or equal to ≤ 2.00 . Therefore, the study accepted the proposition which stated that, TETFUND intervention has addressed the challenges of physical infrastructure in Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi. TETFund as an intervention agency has addressed the challenges of physical infrastructure in Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi. The interventional measure wrestled insufficient facilities in the in the two institutions. TETFund major interventions are funding alongside project management for the rehabilitation, restoration and consolidation of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi. The funds are disbursed for the general improvement of the institutions specifically for the provision or maintenance of: a) Essential physical infrastructure for teaching and learning b) Instructional material and equipment. Some of the intervention lines were created following thoughtful needs assessment of beneficiary institutions. These intervention lines include amongst others: i. Physical Infrastructures ii. Project Maintenance, ICT Support, and Equipment Fabrication for Polytechnics and Entrepreneurship development centres for Universities, laboratories and Library Development. This finding is in line with the interviewed conducted which analyze areas of cooperation, TETFUND, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University. It was revealed that, TETFUND and Tertiary institutions in Bauchi State has cordial relationship in executing her responsibility is in the area of smooth vetting and approval of contracts. TETFUND ensure that inflating facts and figures in order to acquire an undue advantage from the agency are limited. This has made the working relationship between the TETFund and these institutions to be a friendly one.

Summary

The study examined effect of Tertiary Education Trust Fund intervention on infrastructural development in Tertiary institution in Bauchi state. Institutional Theory as propounded by Meyer and Rowan (1977) was adopted as theoretical framework. The study employed mix research designs comprising of Survey, documentary and case studies design. The population of this study is Students and Academic Staff and TETFund desk official in charge of project.

Conclusion

Tertiary Education Trust Fund as a scheme has disbursed, managed, and monitored fund for the provision of physical infrastructure in Abubakar Tafa Balewa University Bauchi. The study concludes that, the provision of these physical infrastructural facilities has enhanced the sustainable infrastructural development Abubakar Tafa Balewa University. In view of the discoveries of this study, there is a significant and positive relationship between Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) intervention and improvement of physical infrastructure in Abubakar Tafa Balewa University Bauchi. The study further affirms that there is a reasonable imprint to show the execution of TETFund viz-a-viz its interventionist projects in the selected Tertiary institutions in Nigeria.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the study recommends that,

- i. Government at different levels should be committed to educational development instead of leaving the whole weight to TETFund that is even a supporting agency. Emphasis should be on physical infrastructure to avoid decay of critical infrastructure.
- ii. The Federal Government should adopt full implementation of Public-Private Partnership policy to complement the effort of TETFUND rather than completely depending on TETFUND to provide the needed physical infrastructure in the institutions which have been evident from the projects executed by TETFund in the two institutions.
- iii. Management of the TETFund should take over the maintenance of structures other than its own in the selected tertiary institutions in order to keep them in good shape for maximum output.

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