Material Resource Management for Effective Implementation of Universal Basic Education in Junior Secondary Schools in Rivers State

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ABSTRACT
This study investigated Material Resource Management for Effective Implementation of Universal Basic Education in Junior Secondary Schools in Rivers State. Four objectives and four research questions were formulated to guide the study. The study adopted a descriptive survey design. The population of the study was 5,118 principals and teachers in the junior secondary schools in the Rivers state. A sample of 530 respondents was determined using Taro Yamen’s formula and proportionate stratified sampling technique. A self-designed questionnaire titled “Material Resource Management for Effective Implementation of Universal Basic Education Programme at Junior Secondary Schools Questionnaire (MRMEIUBEPQ)”. The questionnaire was formulated on a modified four (4) points likert scale of Strongly Agreed, Agreed, Disagreed and Strongly Disagreed and was used for data collection. The instrument was validated by three experts, one from measurement and evaluation department and two from educational management department in the River University. Cronbach Alpha technique was used to compute the reliability index. The instrument has an overall reliability estimate of 0.96. Data collected were statistics of mean scores and standard deviation were used to analyse the research questions, while z-test was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The findings of the study revealed that provision of adequate budgets for maintenance and purchase of material resources, instructional activities are planned towards the efficient use of available material resources and there are planning on how to identify the instructional resources to be used to foster instructional delivery. Three hypotheses were rejected and one accepted. Based on the findings of the study, it was recommended among others that School administrators should be encouraged to develop methods of prudent material resource management to increase the efficiency in the use of available resources for effective implementation of Universal Basic Education.

Keywords: basic education, instructional resources, material resources, implementation

INTRODUCTION
Material resources are physical resources utilized by educational institutions in the process of implementing educational programmes. They act as ancillaries for the achievement of educational goals and objectives. Educational material resources are the integral part of a well-organized school system. It could be understood to be any material which is used to facilitate the overall teaching and learning process in schools. They include textbooks, visual aids, charts, maps, laboratories equipment, chalkboard/whiteboard, play ground and other materials applicable in education system. Usman (2016) sees material resources as the tangible resources that can easily be seen and observed in any educational institution, such as classroom, staff office, vehicles, health centres, library, laboratories, instructional
facilities and so on which directly or indirectly contributes to the achievement of educational goals and objectives. The school system may not attain its set out goals without proper management of materials resources.

The Universal Basic Education (UBE) programme was launched on 30th September, 1999 by the then President of Nigeria, President Olusegun Obasanjo. The objectives of the UBE scheme include among others; provision of universal access to basic education, provision of a conducive learning environment, eradication of illiteracy as well as the ability to communicate effectively. According to the Federal Republic of Nigeria (2013), in the National Policy on Education (revised), Basic Education shall be 9 years of free and compulsory education. The structure of the UBE programme was divided into three levels of lower, middle and upper Basic Education Curriculum. The lower level curriculum is for primary 1-3; the middle level curriculum is for primary 4-5; while the upper level is for Junior Secondary school 1-3.

**Purpose of the Study**
The main purpose of this study was to investigate material resource management for effective implementation of Universal Basic Education in Junior Secondary Schools in Rivers State. Specifically the study intended to:

- Determine the material resource planning strategies that could lead to effective implementation of Universal Basic Education in Junior Secondary Schools in Rivers State.

**Research Question**
The following research questions guided the study:

- What are the material resources planning strategies that could lead to effective implementation of Universal Basic Education in Junior Secondary Schools in Rivers State?

**Hypothesis**
The following hypothesis is formulated for statistical testing at 0.05 level of significance:

- There is no significant difference between the teachers and principals on the material resources planning strategies practiced for effective implementation of Universal Basic Education in Junior Secondary Schools in Rivers State.

**METHODOLOGY**
The study adopted a descriptive survey design.

**PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS**
**Research Question:** What are the material resources planning strategies practiced for effective implementation of Universal Basic Education in Junior Secondary Schools in Rivers State?
Table 1: Mean scores rating and Standard Deviation of teachers and principals on material resources planning that could lead to effective implementation of Universal Basic Education Programme in Junior Secondary Schools in Rivers State.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>Material Resources Planning Strategies</th>
<th>Teachers Mean Scores (x̄)</th>
<th>Teachers SD</th>
<th>Principals Mean Scores (x̄)</th>
<th>Principals SD</th>
<th>Weighed Mean Scores (xx)</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>There are regular maintenance schedule for the maintenance of material resources</td>
<td>1.74</td>
<td>0.59</td>
<td>1.67</td>
<td>0.58</td>
<td>1.71</td>
<td>Disagreed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>There are adequate budgets for maintenance and purchase of material resources</td>
<td>3.31</td>
<td>0.46</td>
<td>3.29</td>
<td>0.45</td>
<td>1.60</td>
<td>Agreed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>There are formulated specific objectives for using material resources</td>
<td>1.61</td>
<td>0.57</td>
<td>1.69</td>
<td>0.58</td>
<td>1.65</td>
<td>Disagreed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Instructional activities are planned towards the efficient use of available material resources.</td>
<td>3.35</td>
<td>0.48</td>
<td>3.32</td>
<td>0.47</td>
<td>3.34</td>
<td>Agreed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>There are planning schedules on how to identify the instructional resources to be used to foster instructional delivery.</td>
<td>3.03</td>
<td>0.78</td>
<td>3.53</td>
<td>0.64</td>
<td>3.54</td>
<td>Agreed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Aggregate Weighed Mean and Standard Deviation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>Weighed Mean Scores (xx)</th>
<th>SD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.61</td>
<td>1.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.99</td>
<td>0.42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Survey Data (2017).
Legend:
X: Mean Teachers 1.00-2.49: Disagreed
X: Mean Principals 2.50-2.49: Agreed
SD: Standard Deviation
XX: Aggregate Weighted Mean

Result on table 1 revealed that teachers and principals sampled on the material resources planning strategies practiced for effective implementation of Universal Basic Education in Junior Secondary Schools in Rivers State disagreed that there are regular maintenance schedule for the maintenance of material resources with scores 1.74, 1.67 and SD 0.59, 0.58 respectively; agreed that there are adequate budgets for maintenance and purchase of material resources with mean scores 3.31, 3.29 and SD 0.46, 0.45 respectively; disagreed there are formulated specific objectives for using material resources with mean scores 1.61, 1.69 and SD 0.57, 0.58 respectively; agreed that instructional activities are planned towards the efficient use of available material resources with mean scores 3.35, 3.32 and SD 0.48, 0.47 respectively and agreed that there are planning schedules on how to identify the instructional resources to be used to foster instructional delivery with mean scores 3.75, 3.89 and SD 0.49, 0.43 respectively. Therefore, material resources planning strategies practiced for effective implementation of Universal
Basic Education Programme in Junior Secondary Schools in Rivers State include provision of adequate budgets for maintenance and purchase of material resources, instructional activities are planned towards the efficient use of available material resources and there are planning schedules on how to identify the instructional resources to be used to foster instructional delivery.

**Hypotheses Testing:**

**Research Hypothesis:** There is no significant difference between the teachers and principals on the material resource planning strategies that could lead to effective implementation of Universal Basic Education programme in Junior Secondary Schools in Rivers State.

**Table 2: Summary of the z-test analysis of the mean ratings of principals and teachers on the material resource planning strategies practiced for effective implementation of Universal Basic Education Programme in Junior Secondary Schools in Rivers State.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>DF</th>
<th>Z-Calculated</th>
<th>Z-Critical</th>
<th>Decisions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principals</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>1.99</td>
<td>0.42</td>
<td>528</td>
<td>-9.70</td>
<td>± 1.96</td>
<td>Ho: Rejected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>2.61</td>
<td>1.05</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>530</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Legend:**

N: Number of Respondents  
X: Mean  
SD: Standard Deviation  
Z-cal.: Z-calculated Value  
Z-crit.: Z-critical Value  
DF: Degree of Freedom

Data on table 2 show summaries of subjects means, standard deviation and z-test of difference between the mean ratings of teachers and principals on the material resource planning strategies practiced for effective implementation of Universal Basic Education programme in Junior Secondary Schools in Rivers State. The calculated z-value, used in testing the hypothesis stood at -9.70 while the z-critical value stood at ±1.96 using 528 degree of freedom. At 0.05 level of significance and 528 degree of freedom, the calculated z-test value of -9.70 is less than z-critical value of ±1.96, hence there is significant difference between the responses of the teachers and principals on material resource planning strategies practiced for effective implementation of Universal Basic Education programme in Junior Secondary Schools in Rivers State. Based on the foregoing, the researcher rejected the hypothesis and confirmed that there is significant difference between the mean ratings of teachers and principals on material resource planning strategies practiced for effective implementation of Universal Basic Education programme in Junior Secondary Schools in Rivers State.

**DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS**

The research question sought to know material resources planning strategies that could lead to effective implementation of Universal Basic Education Programme in Junior Secondary Schools in Rivers State. The findings revealed that there are provision of adequate budgets for maintenance and purchase of material resources, instructional activities are planned towards the efficient use of available material resources and that there are planning schedules on how to identify the instructional resources to be used to foster instructional delivery. This is in line with Osam (2012) who saw planning of material resources as a way to create a conducive environment for teaching and learning.

The hypothesis showed that the calculated z-score is greater than the tabulated z-score, hence there is a significant difference between the mean ratings of teachers and principals on material resources planning strategies practiced for effective implementation of Universal Basic Education programme in Junior Secondary Schools in Rivers State.
Summary of the Study
The study investigated material resource management for effective implementation of Universal Basic Education in Junior Secondary Schools in Rivers State. The need for the study stems from the observations made that material resources are not properly managed in Universal Basic Education at the upper level. They do not adhere to the management practices of planning, organizing, coordinating, and controlling of material resources. They often allow material resources to get damaged because there are no management measures put in place by the schools administrators.

CONCLUSION
Management of educational resource materials have always been regarded as an essential and integral part of school administration and basically geared towards the improvement of all other factors in teaching and learning process, thus ensuring qualitative service delivery by the school to the society.

Recommendations
Based on the findings and conclusion, the following recommendations are made:

- School administrators should be encouraged to develop methods of prudent material resource management to increase their efficiency in Basic Education.

REFERENCES