



Utilizing Library Improvement and Institutional Research Activities through TETfund Intervention Scheme by Universities in Rivers and Bayelsa States

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ABSTRACT

The study focused on utilizing library improvement and institutional research activities through TETfund intervention scheme by universities in Rivers and Bayelsa States. Two research questions and two hypotheses guided the study. Two theories were used for the study, and the political system theory propounded by David Easton (2010), the theory of public goods propounded in Samuelson (1994). The study adopted a descriptive survey design. The population of the study consisted of all the twenty five (25) directors of academic planning, directors of physical planning, all DVC academic, desk officers and directors of work in the universities concerned. The sample of the study is consisted of twenty five (25) respondents, 5 directors of work, 5 directors of academic planning, 5 directors of physical planning, 5 DVC academic and 5 desk officers. The researcher designed an instrument titled “utilizing library improvement and institutional research activities through TETfund intervention scheme by universities in Rivers and Bayelsa States (ULIIRATTISQ)”. The instrument was validated and the reliability coefficient of 0.82 was obtained using Cronbach Alpha. The statistical method that was employed in analyzing the research questions is the mean, and standard deviation. One way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to analyze the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The result showed that TETfund facilities are utilized for library improvement and institutional research development. It was recommended that university lecturers who apply for scholarship should be given the opportunity to upgrade themselves without unnecessary bottleneck. Secondly government should ensure that all the tertiary institutions in Nigeria are given equal opportunity to access TETfund facilities.

Keywords: Intervention Scheme, TETfund, Library Improvement, Research Activities, Universities.

INTRODUCTION

The Federal Government of Nigeria (2004) enumerated the expectations of university education as a contributor to national development through high level relevant manpower training to include:

1. Development and inculcation of proper values for the survival of the individual and the society.
2. Development of intellectual capacity of individuals to understand and appreciate their local and external environment:
3. Acquisition of both physical and intellectual skill which will enable individuals to be self-reliant and useful members of the society.
4. Promotion and encouragement of scholarship and community service, foreign and national unity, and promotion of national and international understanding and interaction.

However, in 1980's and beyond, the decay of all tiers of education was monumental. Facilities had almost collapsed; teachers' and lecturers' morale was at its lowest level. Enabling environment for conducive teaching and learning was absent. The administration of the former Head of state of Nigeria Ibrahim Babangida was conscious of the fact and took measures to arrest the situation. In the year 1990, precisely in December, the federal government constituted the Commission on the Review of Higher Education in Nigeria (the Grey Lange Commission) to Review the post independence Nigeria higher education after the Lord Ashby's commission of 1959 (TETfund, 2015). The Grey Commission recommended among others the funding of Nigerian higher institutions through earmarked 2% tax by the companies operating in Nigeria. The implementation committee under the chairmanship of Professor Olu O. Akinkugbe was constituted and agreement between the federal government and ASUU was signed on the 2nd September, 1992 on funding of tertiary institutions in Nigeria. Recent reports indicate that the Nigerian universities have made a great improvement in all ramifications especially in infrastructure. According to Owen in Michael (2015), the advent of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETfund) over two decades ago, has rescued the Nigerian tertiary institutions from decay by effectively disbursing the 2% companies' fund in the areas that need urgent attention like the area of research, and development, academic research, library upgrade, publication of academic journals and training of academics both locally and internationally to shore up their capacities. Today our tertiary institutions can be ranked among the first 100 schools in Africa sourced, unlike what we had been experiencing in the past. (Source: <http://www.google.com>) Recently, TETfund organized a seminar for Nigerian universities during which it informed them that a lot of money was available for them to access but universities were not showing up, and that even the ones accessed had not been effectively utilized? One of the main reasons for the formation of TETfund is to ensure efficiency and effectiveness in our tertiary institutions through infrastructural development and sponsorship so that lecturers can develop themselves and be productive.

Statement of the Problem

The Act establishing the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETfund) in Nigerian educational system by the former Head of State Ibrahim Babangida has brought a lot of development and innovation in the school system, but a lot of things need to be done to foster stability in our tertiary institutions in Nigeria. There is still problem of low output and poor performance level of our university graduates. This is made manifest through the recent world 2015/2016 university ranking and the continental ranking in Umar (2016) where the first Nigerian University ranked 601 out of the world top 800 universities and 8th in Africa respectively. (Source: www.premiantiness.ng.com).

This goes to show the level of instability in our educational system. Apart from this, another problem confronting our educational system is the problem of accessing TETfund funds due to rigorous processes of regulating, administration and disbursement of monies from the fund under the act involved. This has contributed to general decay in human and material resources in Nigerian tertiary institutions. Indeed, the main purpose for establishing the Tertiary Education Trust Fund was for intervention purposes so as to provide supplementary support to all levels of public tertiary institutions with the aim of funding alongside project management for the rehabilitation, restoration and consolidation of tertiary education in Nigeria.

The funds are disbursed for general improvement of education in federal and state tertiary educational institutions, specifically, for the provision or maintenance of essential physical infrastructures for teaching and learning, research and publications, academic staff training and development and other needs which the board of trustees might deem necessary and essential for the improvement and maintenance of standards in higher educational institutions. The question now is, are these funds accessed? If they are accessed by the institutions, are they available? And if they are available, are they underutilized or over utilized? Also the researcher is bothered to know how many lecturers are able to upgrade themselves in the knowledge industry according to their levels or ranks? All these are what the researcher sees as a constraint to our universities in Nigeria, and decided to carry out research on the Accessibility and utilization of TETfund in universities in Bayelsa/Rivers State.

Aim and Objectives of the Study

The aim of this study was to investigate the utilizing library TETfund intervention scheme by universities in Rivers and Bayelsa States. Specifically, the objectives of this study were to:

1. investigate the extent to which TETfund is utilized for library improvement by universities in Rivers and Bayelsa States:
2. investigate the extent TETfund facilities are utilized for institutional research activities by universities in Rivers and Bayelsa States:

Research Questions

1. To what extent is TETfund utilized for library improvement for universities in Rivers and Bayelsa State?
2. To what extent is TETfund facilities utilized for institutional research activities by universities in Rivers and Bayelsa State?

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were tested at 0.05 alpha level to guide this study.

- H₁: There is no significant difference between the mean response of director of academic planning, director of physical planning, DVC academics, desk officers and director of works of federal universities and Rivers State owned state universities in Rivers and Bayelsa States in respect of utilization of TETfund for library improvement.
- H₂: There is no significant difference between the mean response of director of academic planning, director of physical planning, DVC academics, desk officers and director of works of federal universities and state universities in Rivers and Bayelsa States in respect of TETfund being utilized for institutional research activities.

METHODOLOGY

Descriptive survey design was used for the study. The population of the study consisted of all the twenty five (25) respondents, 5 directors of work, 5 directors of academic planning, 5 directors of physical planning, 5 desk officers and 5 DVC academics. The population of the study was used as the sample size because the population of the study is small. The researcher designed an instrument title "Utilizing Library Improvement and Institutional Research Activities through TETfund intervention scheme by universities in Rivers and Bayelsa States (ULIIRATTISQ)". A total of 25 copies of questionnaire were administered and retrieved from the respondents. The reliability of the instrument was determined through a pilot test of five (5) respondents. The Cronbach Alpha Coefficient of 0.82 shows that the instrument was reliable for the study.

RESULTS

Research Question 1: *To what extent is TETFund utilized for library improvement by Universities in Rivers State and Bayelsa States?*

Table 1: Mean (\bar{x}) scores and standard deviation of directors of academic planning, DVC academics, directors of physical planning, desk officers and directors of work on the extent TETFund is utilized for library improvement by Universities of Rivers and Bayelsa State

N = 25

	Items	DAP		DVCA		DPP		DO		DW		Total		Decision
		Mean	Std											
15	TETFund is utilized in improving virtual status of the library.	2.84	1.17	2.88	1.12	2.88	1.20	2.84	1.17	3.08	1.07	2.90	1.15	High
16	TETFund is utilized to improve books acquisition.	3.12	1.01	3.20	0.95	3.16	1.06	3.20	0.95	3.28	0.97	3.19	0.99	High
17	TETFund is utilized to improve library holdings in all areas.	2.80	1.19	2.88	1.12	2.84	1.17	3.04	0.97	3.24	1.09	2.96	1.11	High
18	TETFund is used to improve the technical service of the library.	2.76	1.16	3.04	1.05	2.92	1.15	3.04	1.05	2.80	1.19	2.91	1.12	High
	Total Grand mean (\bar{x})	2.88	1.13	3.00	1.06	2.95	1.15	3.03	1.04	3.10	1.08	2.99	1.09	High

Table 1 indicated that all the items had mean score above the criterion mean of 2.50 and the grand mean of (2.99) which implies that TETFund is utilized for library improvement by universities in Rivers and Bayelsa States. Drawing inference from the above score, the results indicate that TETFund is utilized in improving virtual status of the library, it is also utilized to improve book acquisition, improve instructional technology development, for recreational facilities, for institutions main buildings and staff offices, for instructional Technology development and for staff offices. All these items listed above are the extent TETFund is utilized for infrastructural development by Universities in Rivers and Bayelsa States.

Research Question 2: *To what extent is TETfund utilized for institutional research activities in Rivers and Bayelsa States?*

Table 2: Mean (\bar{x}) scores and standard deviation of directors of academic planning, DVC academics, directors of physical planning, desk officers and directors of work on the extent TETfund is utilized for institutional research activities in Rivers and Bayelsa State.

N = 25

Items	DAP		DVCA		DPP		DO		DW		Total		Decision
	Mean	Std											
19 TETfund is utilized for research for sponsorship of basic research in an area that will extend knowledge.	2.76	1.16	3.32	0.98	3.12	1.01	3.00	1.15	3.08	1.07	3.06	1.07	High
20 TETfund is utilized for applied research that will use existing knowledge to improve situation.	2.80	1.19	3.08	1.07	2.88	1.12	3.12	1.09	3.28	0.97	3.03	1.09	High
21 TETfund is utilized for research aiming at problem solving.	2.88	1.12	2.80	1.19	2.80	1.19	3.32	0.98	3.24	1.09	3.01	1.11	High
22 TETfund is utilized for problem oriented research-knowing the nature to be solved.	2.88	1.05	2.88	1.12	3.16	1.02	3.08	0.99	2.80	1.19	2.96	1.07	High
Total Grand mean (\bar{x})	2.83	1.13	3.02	1.09	2.99	1.09	3.13	1.05	3.10	1.08	3.01	1.09	High

Table 2 indicated that all the items had mean score above the criterion mean of 2.50 and the grand mean of (3.01) which implies that TETfund is utilized for research for sponsorship of basic research in an area that will extend knowledge, TETfund is utilized for applied research that will use existing knowledge to improve situations, TETfund is utilized for research aiming at problem solving and for problem oriented research, and knowing the nature of the problem to be solved. All these items listed above are the extent TETfund is utilized for institutional research, in activities in Universities in Rivers and Bayelsa States.

Hypothesis

H₀₁: There is no significant difference between the mean response of director of academic planning, director of physical planning, DVC academics, desk officers and director of works of federal universities and Rivers State owned state universities in Rivers and Bayelsa States in respect of utilization of TETfund for library improvement.

ANOVA

Utilized for Library

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	.110	4	.027	.981	.447
Within Groups	.420	15	.028		
Total	.530	19			

Source: Author's SPSS Version 21 Output, 2018

H₀₂: There is no significant difference between the mean response of director of academic planning, director of physical planning, DVC academics, desk officers and director of works of federal universities and state universities in Rivers and Bayelsa States in respect of TETfund being utilized for institutional research activities.

ANOVA

Utilized for Institutional Research

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	.221	4	.055	1.787	.184
Within Groups	.464	15	.031		
Total	.686	19			

Source: Author's SPSS Version 21 Output, 2018

Summary of Findings

1. TETfund facilities are utilized for library improvement by Universities in Rivers and Bayelsa States.
2. TETfund facilities are utilized for institutional research activities by Universities in Rivers and Bayelsa States.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The findings in research question 1 showed that there is an agreement among the directors of academic planning, DVC academic, directors of physical planning, Desk officers and directors of work on utilization of TETfund for library improvement by universities in Rivers and Bayelsa states. This agreement includes: that TETfund is utilized in improving virtual status of the library, improve books acquisition, improve library holdings in all areas and improve the technical service of the library. This is so because all the items have various means above the criterion mean value of 2.50. Therefore it was agreed that TETfund is utilized for library improvement by universities in Rivers and Bayelsa states. Also, the Duncan (D) test that led to the acceptance of the hypothesis 4 states that there is no significant difference between the mean response of directors on utilization of TETfund for library improvement by universities in Rivers and Bayelsa states.

From the findings, in research question 2 it is evidence that there is an agreement between the directors of academic planning, DVC academic, directors of physical planning, Desk officers and directors of work on utilization of TETfund for institutional research activities in Rivers and Bayelsa states. They include: how TETfund is utilized for sponsorship of basic research in an area that will extend knowledge, TETfund is utilized for applied research that will use existing knowledge to improve situations, for research aiming at problem solving and for problem oriented research. This is because all the items have a criterion mean values above 2.50 and agreed that TETfund is utilized for institutional research activities in Rivers and Bayelsa states. Also, the Duncan (D) test that led to the acceptance of hypothesis 5 states that there is no significant difference between the mean response of directors on utilization of TETfund for institutional research activities in Rivers and Bayelsa States.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings, it was concluded that utilizing library improvement and institutional research activities through TETFund intervention scheme is best to redeem the lost glory of Nigeria university system.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made:

1. University lecturers who apply for scholarship should be given the opportunity to upgrade themselves without unnecessary bottlenecks.
2. Government should ensure that all the tertiary institutions in Nigeria are given equal opportunity to access TETFund facilities.

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