ABSTRACT
The study investigated the influence of economic recession on the management of public secondary schools in Rivers State. The researcher adopted a survey design. Two research questions and two hypotheses were used to guide the study. The sample size of the study was achieved by simple random sampling technique, a sample size of 3 female and 3 male principals were selected from each of the 15 public senior secondary schools. 15 Local Government Areas of Rivers State were used for the study bringing the total sample size to 90. The instrument used for data collection was structured questionnaire titled "Influence of Economic Recession on Management of Public Senior Secondary Schools Questionnaire (IERMPSSSQ). The reliability of the research instrument was obtained using test retest method: Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient of 0.78 was obtained. The instrument was validated by experts in the department of educational management and planning. Mean and standard deviation was used for the research questions, and in testing the null hypotheses at 0.05 of significance. Results obtained shows that economic recession negatively influence social activities as well as the teaching-learning process, laying off of teachers in public school is not the best option to elevate the effect of economic recession on public senior secondary schools. It was therefore, recommended that teachers should be paid regularly, teachers, students, parents should try and adapt to the economic situation by managing available resources. And government should diversify the sources of revenue through improvement in solid minerals and agricultural to boost the economy. In fact to crown it all, all government at all levels should increase the educational budget.

Keywords: Influence, Economic Recession, Management and Public Secondary Schools.

INTRODUCTION
There is that general consensus among nations of the world that education is one of the basic necessities for development. Nigeria acknowledge same and sees education as an instrument per excellence for national development. It is very much documented that it is a pivot for socio-political, economic, cultural, technological and scientific development of any nation aspiring for development. National development is viewed from the angles of improvement in material well being of the people, high income per capita, increased Gross Domestic Product (GDP), high standard of living, eradication of mass poverty, illiteracy and diseases, long life expectancy, respect for human rights and privileges, rules of law and democracy, etc. a nation is termed to be developed when it can adequately provide qualitative and quantitative education, and also guarantee adequate production and supply of basic social amenities and food for her citizens. According to Rogers (1997) education provides knowledge and resources that hold potential economic empowerment, better livelihood and social development. Mapolisa and Tshabalala (2013) observed that: "access to education particularly schooling, is a mechanism through which all people can integrate into mainstream society and a means through which they can exercise social, economic and cultural rights".

At both federal and state levels, education is seen as a right which has been enshrined in a number of international treaties. Therefore in Nigeria, the national policy determines the quality of education policies, programmes and processes and eventually the product (results or outcomes). Government underfunding and commoditization of education is likely to worsen the crisis in education. The
economic recession confronting many governments is creating severe conflicts in educational sector of many nations which Nigeria is one of them. On the other hand, they had reduced their budget deficits to avoid excess indebtedness. Today as I speak, there is high percentage of national budget cuts in Nigeria and in the various states which Rivers State is not an exception.

Economic recession is a period of economic meltdown showing low output, in liquidity and unemployment. Adam (2010), defines economic recession as decline in economic output. Less than a decade ago, the world economy sank in recession, the deepest and most wide spread down-turn since the great depression of the 1920’s and 1930s.

In Nigeria, the economic situation is in its worst possible time. A report submitted by the National bureau of statistics revealed that Nigeria economy in the second quarter, including Gross Domestic Product (GDP), inflation, employment and unemployment, capital importation and other key fundamentals. The national Bureau of statistics (2008) defined recession as a significant decline in economic activity lasting more than a few months, which is normally visible in real (GDP), real income, employment industrial production and wholesales-retails sales. The present Nigeria economy is facing the rippling influence of the economic meltdown leading to breakdown and decline in economic activities. These resulted in influencing among others include falling incomes, rising price, public service cuts, benefits cuts, weak labour rights. Opeyemi (2008) noted that there are cases of unemployment, retrenchment, downsizing and lay-off which serve as indication to a troubled economy. Economic recession and its influence, cuts across the different sectors of the economy. Secondary education in terms is also feeling the impact of economic hardship.

Secondary education intra of economic Recession

Secondary education is the second level of formal education acquired after the primary level of education. It comprises both junior (JSS 1-3) and senior (SSS1-3). The basic goals of secondary education are to prepare the students for useful living and higher education. Secondary schools especially in developing countries grapple with numerous and daunting challenges that imposes severe constraints on their ability to build human capital for sustainable development in their respective countries. Ochu (2010) reported that the challenges faced by most of the third world countries which have some serious hitches burdened by disappointments and shortfalls in expectations are rooted on social, economic and political factors. Many secondary schools today are facing serious hitches as a result of the current economic recession. The economic recession has reduced the quality of services delivered in most secondary schools in Rivers State and Nigeria at large. On the other hand, it is threatening the productivity of teachers and by extension students’ education outcomes.

An examination of secondary school education in Nigeria according to Onwiri (2008) and Ige (2013) reveals the following challenges that are plaguing and undermining the achievement of its aim and objectives, which includes inadequate funding, inadequate and decay infrastructural facilities, inadequate and low quality teachers, negative attitudes of teachers, indifference of students, low quality intakes and poor academic performance of students, prevalence of examination malpractice, incidences of waste, inappropriate curriculum, poor quality assurance owing to various training limitations and other organizational and management issues pertaining to school management, manpower requirement and curriculum development.

In a study on the “impact of economic crisis in Education”: case study of south-west Nigeria”. Barnigboy, Ede and Adeyemi (2016) found out that at the time of economic crisis, teachers and other management staff feel greater pressure to earn extra income especially when they do not receive their pay on time they engage in more moonlight activities’ ever during school hours, there is increase in absenteeism and teachers are not motivated to be effective in their task of effective education delivery.

Their study further revealed that many teachers due to lack of motivation and prompt payment of salaries and other allowances cannot meet their daily needs due to high cost of living brought about by economic meltdown. According to Okonji-Iweala (2009) reported that Nigeria has been hit by Global economic crisis and that all sectors of the economy (including education) will be drastically effected. This equally revealed that at the time of economic melt down, the students and parents’ purchasing power dropped and as a result, influenced the purchase of books and educational materials.

Influence of economic recession on the management public secondary schools in Rivers State, recession may be a new story to many young Nigerians, but it is not new thing to the old people in Nigeria and the world. During recession, news about companies closing down, unemployment figures
takes centre stage while the families dealing with the recession suffer, often quietly, people and firms work hard just to stay afloat while many families do their best to carry on as if nothing is wrong with the world, recession can have a profound influence on the day to day activities of children education pursuit.

In a developed country like United States of America, it is an old story. America has had 47 economic recessions in their history. The most recent one occurred 2007-2009 which they call “Great Recession”. In United Kingdom all other EU member states have had major and minor recession for more than 20 times.

In Nigeria, secondary education is feeling this sharply whether principals, students, teachers, administrative clerks, library workers etc, they all have their share in recession. And most secondary schools education is suffering declines in tuition fee payment by parents and guardians. At the same time, many are also facing dramatic increase in lasts ranging from utilities. With decreasing revenues and rising costs, secondary schools are forced to make tough decisions if they are to balance their budgets and still meet the needs of students and staff. The recession is on in Nigeria and Federal Government (FG) has openly stated that technically recession has ended in 2017, but secondary schools in Rivers State are yet to recover, because school budgets has not regain their pre-recession 2017 funding levels. As a result of this scenario most public senior secondary schools have cut their expenditures with minimal impact on students by deferring maintenance and construction projects, lying off central staff, and eliminating non essential travail. The influence of the economic recession on management of secondary schools in Rivers State has resulted to these cuts include:

a. Eliminating social outings such as excursions: excursion provides less-privilege children the opportunity to be socially exposed.

b. Cutting of professional development for teachers and staff.

c. Social gatherings in some schools where students learn to associate and socialize with others are also eliminated due to economic meltdown.

d. Lying off teachers, which in turn increase class size. According to Baker, B.D. Farrie D. and Sciarra, D. C. (2016), “Children in smaller class achieve better out comes, both academically and otherwise, and class-size reduction can be an effective strategy for closing racially or social-economically based achievement gaps”.

e. In a recess economy, teachers’ salaries are not regularly paid. Significant reduction in teachers’ salary can go a long way to impact negatively on his/her service delivery in classroom. Parents hit by economic recession tend to withdraw their wards from schools. According to Tribune Newspaper (2016) “Many parents who fostered their children at private schools for years have started weighing the option of sending them to public schools because of the economic meltdown. Parents are now worried about how to afford their three square meals and less bothered about how to send their wards to schools.

Ochu, (2010) reported that the challenges faced by most of the developed countries which have some serious challenges on education burdened by disappointment and shortfall in expectations are rooted on social, economic and political factors which also mutually interact with each other.

**Statement of the Problem**

School as a social organization does not exist in isolation but exists within an environment and reflects that particular society. The influence of economic recession on management of public secondary schools in Rivers state will definitely disfigure and devalued the management quality of the school administration. One of the unforeseen forces is economic recession which has displayed itself in Nigerian society.

Economic recession in Nigeria has led to low business activities, massive school dropouts, low school enrolment, non-payment of school fees by parents, high street hawking during school hours, high rate of unemployment. Most companies have shut down during this economic meltdown. Employees of companies affected by recession will be forced to relocate from expensive environment to less-expensive location. From the angle of education industry, children whose parents lost their jobs will be withdrawn from good schools in the urban areas to any school within their parents reach, there will be a possible massive retrenchment of teachers and also a possibility of reduction in teachers’ salaries, elimination of holiday classes and social activities in schools is slowly diminishing. School management are likely to stop or reduced the distribution of text books, exercise books and other writing materials, teachers and staff experience hardship during period of economic meltdown due to
delay in the payment of salaries and allowances, making the educational system to compromise standards and quality on the account of poor funding. These will be having a negative impact on management of public senior secondary schools in Rivers state. So far it is pertinent to investigate the factors influencing on management of public senior secondary schools in the era of economic recession.

**Purpose of the Study**
The aim of the study is to investigate the influence of economic recession on Management of public secondary school in Rivers State. Specially, the objectives of the study are to:

1. Determine the extent to which economic recession has influenced social and general activities in schools in Rivers State.
2. Find out measure to be adopted to alleviate the influence of the economic meltdown on school management in public secondary school in Rivers State.

**Research Questions**
The following research questions were used for the study:

1. To what extent has economic recession influenced social and general activities in schools in Rivers State?
2. What measure can be adopted to alleviate the effects of economic recession on school management in public secondary school in Rivers State?

**Hypotheses**
The following null hypotheses were formulated for the study and tested at 0.05 level of significance:

1. There is no significant difference between male and female principals perceived economic recession effects on social and extra curriculum activities of schools in Rivers State.
2. There is no significant difference between female and male principals’ perceived measures to alleviate effects of economic recession on management of public secondary schools in Rivers State.

**METHODOLOGY**
The study adopted the descriptive survey design method. Two research questions and two hypotheses were used to guide the study. The sample size of the study was achieved by simple random sampling technique, a sample size of 3 female and 3 male principals were selected from each of the 15 public senior secondary schools. 15 Local Government Areas of Rivers State were used for the study bringing the total sample size to 90. The instrument used for data collection was structured questionnaire titled “Influence of Economic Recession on Management of Public Senior Secondary Schools Questionnaire (IERMPSSSSQ). The reliability of the research instrument was obtained using test retest method: Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient of 0.78 was obtained. The instrument was validated by experts in the department of educational management and planning. Mean and standard deviation was used for the research questions, and in testing the null hypotheses at 0.05 of significance.
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Research Question 1: To what extent has economic recession influenced social and general activities in schools in Rivers State?

Table 1: Summary of mean and standard deviation scores of respondents on the extent the economic meltdown has influenced social and extra-curricular activities in schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SN</th>
<th>ITEMS</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Standard deviation</th>
<th>Decision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Inter-school debt competitions are no more in existence due to lack of fund</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>3.77</td>
<td>0.56</td>
<td>Accept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Inter-houses sports competition has been eliminated due to drop income</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td>1.05</td>
<td>Accept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Reduction in museum and recreational centres visit has drop due to lack of fund</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>2.17</td>
<td>1.07</td>
<td>Not apt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Schools no longer sponsor drama clubs, dancing and music competition, grand mean</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>3.13</td>
<td>0.98</td>
<td>Accept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Grand Mean</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.34</td>
<td>0.90</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey

The data presented in the Table 1 indicates, all the items mean scores of 3.77, 3.33, 3.12 and 3.13 were greater than the cut-off means score of 2.50. On the whole the grand mean score of 3.34 was also greater than the cut-off mean score of 2.50. This implies that there is negative influence of social activities in schools. The standard deviation values range from 0.56 to 1.05 indicates that the responses from the respondents are close to each other.

Research Question 2: What measure can be adopted to alleviate the effects of economic recession on school management in public senior secondary school in Rivers State?

Table 2: Summary of mean and standard deviation of respondents on measures to alleviate the influence of recession on school management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SN</th>
<th>ITEMS</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Standard deviation</th>
<th>Decision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Cuts of excursions</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>3.69</td>
<td>0.66</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Minimal school fees to avoid massive dropout/withdrawal of students.</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>3.45</td>
<td>0.91</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Laying off teachers</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>1.92</td>
<td>0.88</td>
<td>Not accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Opportunity of savings incentives to parents during P.T.A meetings</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>2.83</td>
<td>1.08</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Grand Mean</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.53</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey

The data presented in Table 2 indicates that the item scores of 3.67, 3.45, 2.83 and 3.53 were greater than cut off mean of 2.50. The mean score of 1.92 which represents item seven (7) responses was rejected. This implies that all measures state above can be sued to alleviate the effect of economic recession on management of schools except lying off teachers. The standard deviation values range from 0.66 to 1.08 indicates that responses from the respondents are close to each other. On the whole the grand mean score of 3.30 was greater the cut-off mean of 2.50. Meaning that laying of teacher cannot be best options in elating effect of recession on school management.
Hypotheses

H01: There is no significant difference between male and female principals perceived economic recession effects on social and extra curriculum activities of schools in Rivers State.

Table 3: T-test analysis on male and female principals perceived influence on economic recession on school management.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>Principals</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>Df</th>
<th>t-cal; t-critical</th>
<th>Decision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>3.11</td>
<td>0.58</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Not significant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>3.18</td>
<td>0.96</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>1.96</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Significant at 0.05 levels

The result on Table 3 shows that at 298 degree of freedom, the t-calculated value of 0.79 is less than the t-critical value of 1.96 to make for a significant difference. The null hypothesis was therefore retained.

H02: There is no significant difference between female and male principals’ perceived measures to alleviate effects of economic recession on management of public senior secondary schools in Rivers State.

Table 4: t-test analysis of measures perceived to alleviate the influence of economic recession on management of schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>Principals</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>Sd</th>
<th>Df</th>
<th>t-cal</th>
<th>t-critical</th>
<th>Decision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>3.01</td>
<td>0.87</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Not significant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>3.09</td>
<td>0.92</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>1.96</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Significant at 0.05 levels

The result on Table 4 shows that at 298 degree of freedom, the obtained t-value of 0.73 is less than t-critical of 1.96 at 0.05 alpha levels. In the light of this result, the null hypothesis was retained.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

From research question 1, showed that public secondary schools are no more given much need attention to extra-curriculum/social activities such as inter debt competition/quiz due to lack of funds. This shows that most schools do not sponsor excursions to various recreational centres, such as drama, dancing and music competition where students developed themselves and become superstars in future. This is as a result of lack of funds. This is an agreement with Okonji-Iweala (2009) who stated the global economic crisis has hit Nigeria economy that the purchasing power of the citizens we dropped which education sector is one mainly affected. These will definitely force the school lea...
alleviate the effect of recession on schools. Also study by Stoner (2008) also supported the findings of this study which listed schools fees reduction and installment payment of schools fees as measures to alleviate the effect of recession requires different measures, including school fees reduction, installment school fees payment.

Summary
This study basically investigated the influence of economic recession on the management of Public Secondary Schools in Rivers State. The present Nigeria is facing the rippling influence of the economic meltdown leading to breakdown and decline in the economic activities. This has resulted in influencing falling income, rising price, public service cuts, benefits cuts, weak labour rights. According to Opeyemi (2008) noted that there are cases of unemployment, retrenchment, downsizing and lay-off which serves as indication to a troubled economy in a country. Management of public secondary school in this era of economic recession has been negatively influenced in many ways which includes: low business activities, massive school dropouts, low school enrollment, non-payment of school fees by parents, high street hawking during school hours. The economic recession on the management of secondary schools has resulted to teachers do not promptly received their salaries and other allowances which has resulted to lack of motivation from the teachers to their job. During this economic meltdown, the purchasing power of the students and parents dropped as a result influenced the purchasing of books and other educational materials. Schools now minimize by cutting down some of the school activities, like reduction in recreational visits, sponsoring of other social activities like drama clubs, dancing and music competition, inter-school debt competition all has being reduced to its minimum.

CONCLUSION
Based on the findings of this study, the economic meltdown has drastically affected the social activities aspect of the school system. The findings showed that social activities, excursions, inter-school debates are no more visible due to lack of fund. School management fined it difficult to sponsor these activities due to economic recession in the economy.

RECOMMENDATIONS
1. Government should also increase educational budget to improve funding to reduce the effect of economic meltdown on school management.
2. Teachers, students, parents should try adapt to the economic situation by managing available resources.
3. Teachers’ salaries should be paid regularly and up to date.
4. To crown it all Nigeria government should diversify the sources of revenue for the country through improvement in solid minerals, agriculture to boost the economy.

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