

MANAGING QUALITY PRIMARY EDUCATION FOR POSITIVE CHANGES IN NIGERIA FOR GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS

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DOI Link: <https://doi.org/10.70382/bejerp.v9i8.016>

ABSTRACT

Educational system aimed at National Development and Global Competitiveness must develop quality primary education sector. This will help to inculcate skills and good values on the younger ones. The paper examines managing quality primary education for positive changes in Nigeria for global competitiveness. It try to illustrate some of the positive changes that is expected in primary education before quality primary education can be attained for global competitiveness. Some of the positive changes are availability of funds, proper planning and infrastructural development etc. the paper proffers some recommendations such as increase in funds, provision of infrastructural facilities and adequate power supply etc.

Keywords: Quality, Primary Education, Management, Global Competitiveness, Challenges

foundation that will lead to other stages for lifetime learning and higher human capital development (Michelle and Shawn, 2021). It is

Introduction

The management of the educational sector to achieve global competitiveness must be based on quality educational service delivery which is aimed at achieving economic prospects for the country and the world at large. The dividend of any good educational system especially at primary level is the quality of manpower produce and quality academic background received through formal educational processes that can competitively stand challenges of the time (Rwigema, 2022).

The primary education level is the foundation stage it is the base that requires adequate human materials and financial resources to lay strong

believed that no nation can develop without preparing its primary education or its basic unit for national and global challenges and changes that will occur from time to time (Zickafoose *et al.*, 2024). According to the National Policy on Education it states that permanent literacy and numeracy are inculcated to the children (FRN, 2014).

For over two decades now, the quality of our public primary school has become a national contemporary issue, worst still past and present administration and individual managerial office holders approaches to primary education tend to push it into comatose stage. Poor quality entrants in education sector starts from the primary level of education to secondary and tertiary institutions (Eduardo and Harry, 2023).

The Nigerian state has failed to implement UNESCO and World Economic Forum (2018) for increased educational budget and funding. Due to the lean allocation of funds to education sector there is no positive changes in the system. Studies have shown that nepotism and corruption has bedeviled the management of our public primary education in the country (Ugwulashi, 2017). Some of our private primary schools are doing better, they have well equipped schools delivering academic dividends and have excelled in national and global school competition.

Quality Primary Education

In education, as a measure for comparative index for global competitiveness quality primary education is imperative. TQM theorist deming, Crosby and Juran (2018) were emphatic that quality is what makes an organization survive. In Nigeria as a country if our primary education has to develop there is the need to introduce positive changes into our primary education curriculum. Due to this, the introduction of quality primary education for national development cannot be over emphasized. Crosby maintained that money spent on quality is money that is well spent. Juran postulated that if an organization wants to maintain quality system it must embark on quality planning, quality improvement and quality control (Quality Trilogy). These implies that if quality is to be maintain, cost must not be considered as a factor. Money spent on improving quality is money well spent. Quality planning must be considered. For Nigeria to achieve quality primary education both Federal and State Ministry of Education and Administration of primary education is necessary (Ifesiokwu, 2021).

Management of primary education: In his 21st century education should aim at making grandaunts functionally productive within his or her level of academic attainment and can compete both locally and globally. Every child who acquire primary education should be able to have appropriate and relevant skills and values and to be employable in order to contribute to national development.

Education is concerned with the transmission of skills, knowledge, vocation and culture, this is usually done through teaching, learning, research and dissemination of information for ultimate use. According to the National Policy on Education (NPE 2014)

it states that the success of functional education is hinged on proper planning, efficient, management and adequate planning. Management inculcates organization and structures, proprietorship and control inspection and supervision. Educational management is concerned not only with teaching and learning process in classroom, but it includes activities in the ministry of education, policy making, planning, supervision and inspection for national development and global competitiveness (Ndidi *et al.*, 2025).

Challenges and Positive Changes Expected for Quality Primary Education in Nigeria:

- i) **Funding:** in order to have quality primary education funding of primary education is very necessary. Inadequate funding of primary education in Nigeria had been reoccurring challenges to the growth of the sector. All the past and present administration in Nigeria lack the political will to find education for the overall development of the country. No government in Nigeria both past and present have meet the UN requirement on education by allocating a minimum of 26% of the country's annual budgetary expenditure to education as recommended by the United Nation scientific and cultural organization [UNESCO] (Ezeanyun, 2017).
- ii) **Planning:** proper planning is an essential tool for putting idea into proper perceptive, absence of proper planning will lead to faulty implementation of any programme or project, quality primary education require proper planning. According to UNESCO (2017) lack of proper planning in Nigeria is due to faulty census exercises. The unrealistic data generated during census exercise has resulted to unrealistic projections of instructional facilities and instructional materials which is needed in primary education system.
- iii) **Infrastructural Development:** Due to the increase in enrolment of children in primary school, the few available infrastructural facilities are overcrowded, coupled with lack of power supply, computer and internet system. The provision of adequate classroom, block Information and Communication Technology (ICT) etc. depend on provision of adequate funds with these inadequacies primary education in Nigeria will lack the potential for quality education and global competitiveness.
- iv) **Instructional Facilities:** To attain quality primary education in the country there must be provision for adequate instructional materials, power point, computer and internet services, white board marker , printers, toys and learning game materials etc. these teaching aid help to facilitates teaching and learning especially at primary level of education. These will lead to quality primary education in the country.
- v) **Power Supply:** Different administration both present and past have failed in the area of power supply in Nigeria, just yesterday the nation grid fall and the whole country was in darkness without adequate power supply there will be no

development in the country. Power supply is very essential in the education sector, to attain quality education for global competitiveness power supply is required.

Primary Education in Nigeria for Global Competitiveness

Education is noted as a greatest factor for global assessment because it determines the manpower structure to economic development among nations of the world. The bedrock of development is sound educational base, if a country embrace quality primary education it will be used to inculcate skills and values to the young ones. Educational changes and innovation at primary level help to rejuvenate the academic, social, political, economic and cultural dimension of any society amongst others. It improves the transmission of knowledge and value re-orientations from one generation to another with improved knowledge to meet current world challenges (Njoku, 2018). Cultural and academic transmission if done in appropriate way will enable younger generation to meet national consciousness and global challenges facing them through value re-orientation and hardwork.

Quality primary education needs science and technological innovation to develop human capability to face global competitiveness. Unfortunately, this is missing in our school systems. In Nigeria our educational system must instill this innovation right from primary level of education.

CONCLUSION

Effective management of primary education is very important because primary education is the foundation upon which other development of education rest. Primary education help to prepare the citizens with the necessary skills, knowledge, value and work experience that is needed to solve socio-economic and political challenges globally. Primary school teachers should adopt participatory teaching method to create global consciousness in the learner to prepare them academically for global competitiveness. They should think critically and innovatively in solving national and global challenges.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The management of primary education is the main instrument for national and global competitiveness we can achieve this through the following recommendations:

1. Increase in budgetary allocation to education sector to meet UNESCO's 26% global recommendations.
2. The reviews of primary education curriculum to include creativity, vocational skills etc.
3. There should be proper planning to ensure education sector is well planned and cater for.

4. **Infrastructural development;** there must be infrastructural facilities in our primary schools this will enable our students to compete globally.
5. **Instructional Facilities:** there should be instructional facilities in our public schools, it will improve academic performance in our schools.
6. **Power supply;** government should try to improve on power supply especially to education sector.

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