

ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF FINANCING SECONDARY EDUCATION IN EBONYI STATE BY THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

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ABSTRACT: *In discussing this topic, Ocho (2005) defined education and the need for education. Okanamiri (2002) also defined education financing as a branch of knowledge that deals with important examination of the cost and expenditure in the production of education services. Various alternative sources of financing secondary education according to various authorities were explained to include: PTA, proceeds from the school farm, Donations, Endowments, Community Involvement, Fund raising activities, Old Students Associations etc. Conclusion and recommendation were made.*

KEYWORDS: Education, Finance, Secondary School,

INTRODUCTION

Education is the process through which individuals are to actively participate in the growth and development of their society. It is the system through which man becomes a moral agent capable of living in society peacefully and harmoniously among others. Education is process through which man realizes his potentialities and uses them for, self fulfillment in the services of himself and others (Ocho, 2005). Education is the cornerstone of a nation, culture and an absolute necessity for economic prosperity and development. There is hardly any household in this state that is not concerned about the state of our education system particularly the secondary system. The secondary education in Ebonyi state is in a deplorable condition. Teachers in secondary schools are demoralized and disenchanted, as the system now produces millions of virtually illiterate young people who roam the streets and villages in search of employment that is not even available.

Currently, secondary education in Ebonyi state is tuition free and it is principally financed by the state government. Worse still, the state allocation to secondary education is always very slim, and this does not encourage successful achievement of secondary education goals in Ebonyi state.

Okunamiri (2002) described Education Financing as a branch of knowledge that deals with important examinations of cost versus expenditure in the production of educational services. Since the government alone cannot adequately finance secondary education in Ebonyi state, alternative sources of financing secondary education becomes necessary and inevitable.

Financing Education

There is certain cost that must be borne by government if we must achieve universal access to education. In a cost tracking workshop organized by Action-Aid from 13-17th October, 2003 in Johannesburg, South Africa, the participants discussed issues of cost of education while using Venn Diagram, recommended a cost sharing formula among the various stake holders of

education. To this end, participants allocated various costs of education to the community, government and the private sector. The workshop concluded that all the stakeholders have some responsibilities to ensure that Children are supported to acquire quality education.

The UNESCO recommendation of 26% of the annual budget to education is never implemented in Nigeria talkless in Ebonyi state. Secondary education in Ebonyi state is grossly funded and this is manifested in poor quality of education, inadequate provision of human and material resources in schools. It is now a known fact that public secondary education is practically for the children of the poor parents.

The inability of public secondary schools to achieve the goals of secondary schools has encouraged the proliferation of private secondary schools in the state with its own attendant problems.

To see that public secondary schools in Ebonyi state are not allowed to collapse completely, alternative sources of funds to finance it becomes the only option.

Alternative Sources of Financing Secondary Education In Ebonyi State:

Adewunmu and Ehiamentalor (1985) stated that inadequacy of financial resources will certainly have the effect of both the state and its local governments. The fact that the state government cannot adequately fund the secondary education implies that the school administrators (principals) must work for sources of fund available to their schools.

The alternative sources through which money can be realized to run secondary schools include:

- (1) **Parents Teachers Association (PTA).** Every secondary school in Ebonyi state has Parents Teachers Association that helps the state government in one form or the other in managing the affairs of the school. Normally, every student termly pays the PTA levy which is managed by the school authority in conjunction with the PTA officials. In many cases, PTA money is used in providing PTA teachers and some school facilities and repairs. Apart from provision of both human and material resources, PTA motivates both students and teachers by giving awards and scholarships to exceptional students and teachers. This goes a long way to encourage hard work and commitment in the school.
- (2) **Use of Direct Labour.** The Chief executive can make use of direct labour in carrying out school projects in order to reduce expenses instead of using contractors. This is a good source of financing education.
- (3) **Payment for Extra Lesson.** School principals could organize extra lessons for students after the official school hours. The proceeds could be used to do some works in the school by the school authority after compensating the teachers for their extra efforts.
- (4) **Proceeds from school activities.** School activities represent another good source of financing public secondary schools. They include such activities as sales of students hand crafts, sales of books and stationery, staging of school plays and raffles, sales of farm products from the school farm, funds raising activity can be organized by the school authority where parents could be invited to raise money for school projects.

- (5) **Appeal fund raising.** The school authority could appeal in writing to wealthy persons in the community where the school is located for financial assistance in order to develop their school. This practice if well articulated could yield good results in Ebonyi State.
- (6) **Community involvement.** The school administrator cannot successfully run the school in isolation without the involvement of the community people. The community will help the school in carrying out its policies especially in the area of discipline and settlement of disputes involving both the students, staff and community. The community could be used to supply both free and cheap labour to the school if cordial relationship exists between the school and the community.
- (7) **Donation.** A good school principal who has a good relationship with the community will be able to attract both financial and material donations from the people of the community where his school is located including scholarships, to his students. The principal should know when and how to organize fund raising in his school so as to get people's donations to his school.
- (8) **Old Student's Association.** Effective use of the Old Students' Association by the school authority is always very helpful and healthy to the school. This association normally provides both cash and materials for the growth and development of their alma-mater. Every good school principal utilizes this source to finance his school.
- (9) **Non Governmental Organizations (NGO).** Martins (2011), states that non-governmental organization is an association registered under the societies registration act, public trust act and the companies act with general body, executive, paid staff and volunteers. Since the financing of education is a joint responsibility and involves the private sector, a good school administrator must avail himself the opportunity of involving any of the NGOs in the state in funding his school in any form. Thus, every school principal should learn how to blow his trumpet and execute his school projects.

Supporting the above alternative sources of financing secondary education in Ebonyi State of Nigeria, Ndu, Ocho and Okeke (1997) indicated that one of the sources of funds for educational development is community fund raising. Nwoye, Ejatavbo, Febabor and Onoja (1999), stated that education could be funded by means of endowments. While Ocho (2005) believed that the payment of landed property tax should be one of the reliable sources of funding secondary education. Furthermore, Okunamiri in Nwagwu (2001) opined that education could be financed through the following sources: Educational levy, Donations, Rentals, Old Students financial assistance, Registration fees.

Nwakpa (2007) suggested the following strategies to be adopted to enhance financial resources provision in Ebonyi State secondary schools:

- (1) Local government authorities should be meant to give out 2% of their monthly financial allocation to state Secondary Education Board.
- (2) Introduction of ₦ 500.00 Secondary Education Levy to all vehicle owners on yearly basis, and to be paid into the account of Secondary Education Board (SEB).

- (3) Students should be made to pay the sum of ₦1000.00 for collecting.(i) school testimonial, (ii) statement of results and (iii) certificates.
- (4) Introduction of ₦100.00 Secondary Education levy per month on each workshop/store and public or civil servant to be collected by Secondary Education Task Force with official receipt. Government departments should deduct at source and remit to SEB special account.

Finally, Charles (2002) identifies the following internal or alternative sources of revenue for secondary school finance:

- (1) Levies(2) PTA levies (3) Money realized from school farm
- (4) Endowments (5) Donations(6) Local fund raising (7) Rentals.

In sum, a proper utilization of the discussed alternative sources of financing secondary education in Ebonyi State by the school principals will take care of all the inadequacies in the public secondary schools in the state.

CONCLUSION

Having X-rayed the alternative sources of financing secondary schools in Ebonyi State, it is the belief of the writer that these sources are far greater than what the students tuition fee could yield if students are asked to be paying tuition, and not only that, it places the school administrator in a better position to make use of the money realized from alternative sources.

With the above sources available to school heads, the writer concludes that the sky is just the only limit of every public secondary school in Ebonyi State to successfully achieve the goals of secondary education.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are made:

1. Every school principal should see that he utilizes the school PTA levy very well.
2. He organizes local fund raising at least once in a year.
3. He appeals to wealthy individuals in his community for financial assistance from time to time.
4. He organizes internal school activities in order to raise money
5. He involves the community in most of his projects activities.
6. He should have very cordial relationship with the community.
7. He must carry his staff along.
8. He must be accountable to his staff and PTA.
9. He must be prudent in all his financial dealings.
10. He must be a good accountant.

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