



THE ROLES OF STAKEHOLDERS IN ENHANCING PRIMARY EDUCATION IN NIGERIA

BY

OLUMOYO ADERONKE ESTHER Ph.D

CITY UNIVERSITY CAMBODIA, AKURE STUDY CENTER OWOODE ONDO STATE

And

AINA ABIMBOLA CHRISTIANAH Ph.D

ABSTRACT

A stakeholder is an individual or group with an interest in the success of an organization in fulfilling its mission. The role of stakeholders in enhancing primary education in Nigeria cannot be over-emphasized. This paper examined the relevance of stakeholders in bridging the gap in primary education from policy planning to implementation stage and how the stakeholders can help in the achievement of educational goals and objectives. The stakeholders are the governments. Federal, states and local government, the teachers, administrators, parents and community. It was concluded that the roles of all the stakeholders are important in enhancing primary education that if all stakeholders perform their roles/duties as expected the objective of primary education in Nigeria will be achieved, but if any of the stakeholder is lacking in their roles it may affect the actualization of the objectives of primary education in Nigeria. It was recommended that The government at all levels (Federal, State and Local) should improve on supervision of instruction, learning materials, teaching methods, school facilities , examination among others in order to improve the teaching and learning situations in primary schools, the community (Parents, School Based Management Committee, old students association, philanthropists) should support the govern in terms of financing, provision of facilities, supervision of instruction, giving of scholarships to brilliant students and less privilege students in order to enhance and improve the primary education system, the school head teachers should be more proactive, effective and efficient in their administrative and professional functions and also improve on their roles as stakeholders in enhancing primary education among others.

INTRODUCTION

Education is a very big investment project which affect and is affected by every member of the society. In which the government and the private individuals have devoted some amount of their resources to the growth of education with a mind of getting returns. The parents expect their children to be able to compete favourably with other children of the world: the government also expects that education should help to develop the nation socially, politically, economically and

technologically. In Nigeria, public discussions often focus on education standards. It is generally believed that education is the instrument for bringing national development. Such development can be seen in the social, political and economic aspects of nation building. The state of the nation's primary school is of great concern to school administrators, teachers, parents government and all other interest group in the nation.

Who are stakeholders? A stakeholder is an individual or group with an interest in the success of an organization in fulfilling its mission. By delivering intended results and maintaining the viability of its products, services and outcome overtime. According to Paine (2009) in RMC Research corporation in sustainability series 6 opined that there are two types of stakeholders in education.

1. Internal stakeholders: these are those who work within the school system on a daily basis and who largely control what goes on there. They include school staff, and to some extent school boards.

2. External stakeholders are those outside the day to day work of the schools who have a strong interest in school outcomes but who do not directly determine what goes into producing those outcomes.

Primary education is referred to in the National Policy on Education (2004) as the foundation upon which the rest of the educational system is built. One of the objectives of primary education in Nigeria is to inculcate in children permanent literacy and numeracy and the ability to interact and communicate effectively. However, the proper implementation of any curriculum depends on the quality and readiness of the stakeholders in the primary education sector. The National Policy on Education states that no education can rise above the quality of teachers in the system. It was further stated in the National Policy Education NPE (2004) that primary education is the education given in an institution to children aged 6-11 plus. It is the key to the success or failure of the whole education system. Primary education is viewed as the foundation and the entrance to the world of education.

The Goals of Primary Education

The goals of primary education according to the National Policy on Education (NPE 2004) are:

- Inculcate permanent literacy and numeracy, and ability to communicate effectively;
- Lay a sound basis for scientific and reflective thinking;
- Give citizenship education as a basis for effective participation in and contribution to the life of the society;
- Mould the character and develop sound attitude and morals in the child;
- Develop in the child the ability to adapt to the child's changing environment;

- Give the child opportunities for developing manipulative skills that will enable the child to function effectively in the society;
- Provide the child with basic tools for further educational advancement, including preparation for trades and crafts of the locality;

These goals form the foundation of the primary education in Nigeria which is applicable to all the states of the federation. However for these goals to be achieved the various stakeholders must perform their functions effectively and efficiently.

Who are the Stakeholders in Primary Education

1. Governments and their Agencies
 - (a) Federal ministry of Education
 - (b) State Ministry of Education
 - (c) Local government
2. Administrators/ Head teachers
3. Teachers
4. Community
5. Parents

Roles of Stakeholders in Enhancing Primary Education in Nigeria.

The Government: the federal, state and local governments are stakeholders in education in Nigeria today. They are stakeholders in charge of formulation and establishment of primary schools in Nigeria. The administration of primary education is guided by laid down rules and regulations. The government ensures that these stipulated rules and regulations are adhered to and that the schools nationwide maintain uniform standard both private owned and government owned schools.

The agencies of the government in charge of administration and control of primary education include;

1. Ministry of Education
2. Universal Basic Education Board (UBEC)
3. State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB)
4. Local Government Universal Basic Education Authority (LGUBEA)

FUNCTIONS OF THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

According to Peretomode (2001) in Ajudeonu (2015) The functions of the federal ministry of education are discussed below

- a. Formulation of National Policy on Education
- b. Funding of Educational Institutions/Agencies
- c. Provision of Statistical Data for Planning and Financing
- d. Quality Control of Education in the Country
- e. Developing Curricula and Syllabuses at the National Level in Conjunction with other Bodies

- f. Provision of Consultancy Services to Schools and Organisations
- g. Establishment of Central Registry for Teachers at Federal Level

FUNCTIONS OF THE STATE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

At the state level, the state ministry of Education in Nigeria work directly under the federal ministry of education. Peretomode (2001) in Ajudeonu (2015) however stated the roles of the state ministry of education as follows:

- a. Administration of the entire education system in the state
- b. Implementing national education policy at the state level
- c. Making regulations for the admission of students into state schools and withdrawing of students from schools
- d. Examination and certificate of primary pupils
- e. Award of bursaries and scholarship to deserving pupils of the state
- f. Funding of educational institutions-
- g. Coordination and harmonization of educational activities throughout the state
- h. Planning and development of education in the state
- i. Inspection and supervision of both administrative and academic components of schools.

FUNCTIONS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

At the local government level, the ministry of education, roles performed includes the following:

- a. Provide inspectorate services to the primary schools on behalf of the State Ministry of Education
- b. Organization of examination
- c. Repair damaged school buildings on behalf of the state ministry of education
- d. Placement of pupils into secondary schools
- e. Helps in the distribution of certain school materials such as seats, registers, chalk, dusters and information to primary schools within their locality.

ROLES OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN CHARGE OF PRIMARY EDUCATION.

UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION BOARD (UBEC) :

1. Provide minimum standard for primary education throughout Nigeria
2. Inquire into and advise the federal government on the funding of primary education in Nigeria
3. Collate, after consultation with all the state governments, periodic master plan for a balanced and coordinated development of primary education in Nigeria as

such plans shall include: proposals to the federal government for equal and adequate primary education opportunity in Nigeria.

4. Collate, analyze and publish information relating to primary education in Nigeria
5. Carrying out a regular personal audit in each state of the federation
6. Carrying out such other activities that are relevant and conducive to the discharge of its functions under this law and such other functions as the minister may from time to time determine.

STATE UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION BOARD

The functions of SUBEB include

1. Management of primary schools in the state
2. Recruitment, appointment, promotion and discipline of teaching and non-teaching staff on grade level and above
3. Posting and development of staff including inter -state transfer
4. Disbursement of funds provided to it from federal and state sources
5. Setting up an effective functional supervisory unit
6. Retirement and re-absorption of teachers
7. Undertaking new capital projects
8. Responsibility for the approval, training and retraining of teaching and non-teaching staff based on the scheme of service drawn up by the state government
9. Dealing with leave matters including annual vacation
10. Preparing certificates of services for teaching and non-teaching staff where necessary
11. Ensuring annual auditing of accounts
12. Performing such other functions as may be assigned to the board by the commissioner for education or the commission(UBEC)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION AUTHORITY

1. The day to day administration of primary schools in their respective area of jurisdiction
2. Payments of salaries, allowances and benefits to both academic and non-academic staff of the authority
3. Distribution of equipment, acquisition and materials to all primary schools
4. The appointment, deployment, promotion and transfer of teaching and non-teaching staff on grade levels 01-06
5. Handling of disciplinary problems of staff of primary schools within its area of authority
6. Rendering annual report to SUBEB
7. Encouragement of full enrolment and attendance to all primary schools

8. Performing others functions as may be delegated by SUBEB

THE ROLES OF THE COMMUNITY

The community performs the following roles in enhancing primary education.

1. Provision of funds for the development of the school through special levels like Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) levies, donation by old students associations, religious group, non-governmental organisations and philanthropists etc.
2. Provision of land to erect school structure of various categories and also for gardening and farming purposes .
3. Maintenance of school plants
4. Provision of physical facilities
5. The community provides residential accommodation to both staff and students of the school
6. Provision of scholarship for indigent brilliant students and the less privilege students depending on the fund available

Roles of School Head teacher

The following are the roles of school head in enhancing primary education in their various schools. The roles are classified into two according to Ibukun (1997) in Ajayi & Ayodele (2002)

A. PROFESSIONAL DUTIES: * inspection of school records

- Curriculum planning and development
- Programme planning for the new session
- Examination functions
- Development of teachers
- Provision and maintenance of facilities
- Budgeting functions

B. ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES: * Students welfare

- Staff welfare
- Regular meetings with staff and other bodies
- Public relations functions
- Clerical functions
- Staff and students discipline

Roles of Teachers in Enhancing Primary Education

Teachers play significant roles in the development of primary education such as

- Implementing government policies on primary education
- Providing adequate data and information necessary for planning
- Encouraging collaborative effort with the parents to improve pupils academic performance

- Providing feedback to parents on the performance of their children/wards
 1. The primary duty of a teacher is to impart knowledge and that comes from teaching the pupils in the curricular and co- curricular activities.
 2. It is also the role of the teacher to share knowledge with pupils
 3. Making learning a fun activities thereby making learning permanent
 4. Drawing real-life connections from subjects and topics learnt
 5. Encouraging pupils to learn, tracking improvement of the pupils and setting performance goals
 6. A teacher serve as an external parent to the pupils.

ROLES OF THE PUPILS

The roles of the pupils are discussed as follows:

1. Contributing to class culture and accountability by being inquisitive, that is they must be willing to ask questions and think critically
2. Taking initiative as active participants by asking and answering questions
3. Completing class and school assignment
4. Consistently aligning behaviour to classroom norms
5. Obeying school rules and regulations
6. Maintaining school and classroom discipline
7. Keeping the school neat and tidy
8. Being helpful by clearing their materials after a class
9. Participate in the activities organized in the school
10. Cooperate with parents, teachers and school management
11. Decorate their classrooms with charts, posters among others.

CONCLUSION

This study has been able to discuss the meaning of primary education, the various stakeholders involved in enhancing primary education in Nigeria, and their roles in enhancing that level of education. It was however observed that the roles of all the stakeholders are important in enhancing primary education that if all stakeholders perform their roles/duties as expected the objective of primary education in Nigeria will be achieved, but if any of the stakeholder is lacking in their roles it may affect the actualization of the objectives of primary education in Nigeria.

RECOMMENDATION

Based on the foregoing, the following recommendations were made:

1. The government at all levels (Federal, State and Local) should improve on supervision of instruction, learning materials, teaching methods, school facilities , examination among others in order to improve the teaching and learning situations in primary schools
2. The community (Parents, School Based Management Committee, old students association, philanthropists) should support the govern in terms of financing, provision of facilities, supervision of instruction, giving of scholarships to brilliant students and less privilege students in order to enhance and improve the primary education system
3. The school head teachers should be more proactive, effective and efficient in their administrative and professional functions and also improve on their roles as stakeholders in enhancing primary education
4. The teachers should also be willing to deliver maximally, impart knowledge to the pupils, give necessary feedback to parents and also to keep themselves abreast of current practices in education.
5. The pupils must be willing to cooperate with their parents and teachers by contributing to class culture, taking initiative, being obedient to school rules and regulations, maintaining school and classroom discipline among others.

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