

Influence of Economic Recession on Principal Financial Management in Public Secondary Schools in Southern Senatorial District of Taraba State, Nigeria

Cletus Edoh Ph.D & Adi Daniel Ph.D

Department of Educational Foundations and General Studies, College of Agricultural and Science Education, Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi, Nigeria

Abstract: This study investigated influence of economic recession on the principal financial management in public secondary schools in Southern Senatorial District of Taraba State, Nigeria. Two specific objectives with corresponding research questions guided the study and two hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance. The study adopted a survey research design, and was carried out in Southern Senatorial District of Taraba State, Nigeria. The population for this study was 1642 teachers from 132 public secondary schools in Southern Senatorial District of Taraba State. A total of 240 teachers representing 15% of the entire population were selected from 20 secondary schools also representing 15% of the entire secondary schools used for the study. The instrument used for data collection was a structured questionnaire titled "Influence of Economic Recession on the Principal Financial Management of Secondary Schools Questionnaire (IERPFMSSQ)" developed by the researchers. The reliability of the instrument was estimated using Cronbach Alpha statistic and an overall reliability coefficient of 0.80 was obtained. The data was analyzed using Means and Standard Deviation to answer the research questions. Chi-Square Statistic to test the null hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. Findings of the study revealed that; most schools do not have a source of water for their students due to lack of funds and that games and other social activities in school come up only once in a while due to lack of fund and finally, students hardly make use of the school library due to the fact that most library books are old and not useful to them. Also, most of the buildings in school are very old as they have not been renovated for a long time, due to dilapidated structures, students hardly sit inside the classroom, making the students ungovernable and that classrooms in most public secondary schools have very poor ventilation, making it difficult for teachers and students to concentrate when teaching and learning. Based on these findings, it was recommended that; Taraba State Government should endeavour to regularly provide public secondary schools with up-to-date 21st century facilities as this could aid administrative effectiveness of teachers and increase students' academic performance.

Keywords: Economic recession, Principal's Financial Management, and Management of Public Secondary Schools.

I. INTRODUCTION

Education is regarded as the bedrock of any nation. Most Nigerians and indeed, all progressive nations generally believe that good education is the gateway to success and the cornerstone of liberation or emancipation, economic achievement and national development, secondary education inclusive. Secondary school education is a type of education given at post primary school. Failure to provide relevant and adequate educational opportunity to a child will hamper the development of a country or State. Education simply put is the process of facilitating learning, or the acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, morals, beliefs and habits. Economic recession is a general down turn in any economy. A recession is associated with high unemployment, under-employment, slowing gross domestic product, and high inflation.

The National Bureau of Economic Recession in defines recession as a significant decline in economic activity spread across the economic lasting more than a few months (Ochai & Adikwu, 2018). In the context of this study, Economic Recession implies the global economic forces that have place the world economy, Nigeria inclusive in a position of wrestling with her internal economic distortions. Economic Recession has led to high inflation and depreciation of school facilities to lack of maintenance due to inadequate or insufficient funds to meet day to day administration of secondary schools. It was to one's dismay that classrooms, books, and laboratory facilities provided to secondary schools seems to be in a state of disrepair. During the rainy season, it is very sad to see schools environment flooded with waters everywhere, school principals lack funds to maintain leaking roof. Shiskin (2015) sees recession as a business cycle contraction which results in general slowdown in economic activity. Macroeconomic indicators such as GDP (Gross Domestic Product), investment spending, capacity utilization, household income, business profits and inflation fall while bankruptcies and unemployment rise. Recessions generally occur when there is a widespread drop in spending. This may be triggered by various events, such as financial crisis, and

adverse supply shock, external trade shock or the bursting of an economic bubble. According to Oladapo and Fabayo (2012), economic recession seems to have deleterious consequences on the management of secondary schools in areas of; funding, payment of staff salaries, provision of instructional materials, provision of infrastructural materials, maintenance of infrastructural facilities, provision of recreational facilities and staff development. This study will focus on four indices of economic recession on public secondary schools of; provision of facilities and maintenance of facilities. The absence of classrooms for effective teaching and learning presupposes the absence of other facilities such as libraries, instructional materials such as textbooks, audio-visual aids and so on. According to Tinubu (2017), through no fault of their own, too many of our people are without sustenance and as such; learning cannot take place where facilities are not provided.

Provision of facilities can be defined as the act of making available teaching aids, chairs, tables, devices such as modern educational hardware and software in the form of magnetic tapes, films, and transparent stripes among others in the school towards achievement of set goals and objectives. School facilities can be defined as those things that enable the teacher to do his/her work very well and helping the learners to learn effectively. The chalkboard for example, facilitates the imparting of information on the learner (Lawanson & Gede, 2011). According to the authors, school facilities are all the things that are needed for effective teaching – learning process to take place. They are designed to enhance the process of teaching. School facilities also include school building e.g. classrooms, assembly halls, laboratories, workshops, libraries among others. According to Lawanson and Gede, the absence of school facilities implies the non-existence of any set up that may be referred to as school. It is saddening to note that in this 21st century our primary and secondary schools are still using blackboards in the classroom when we should be talking about chalkboard and markers. With inadequate provision of the school facilities and non-existence in some U.B.E. schools, it will be difficult for the government to fully implement the U.B.E. programme in the face of the scarce school facilities and consequently the desired objectives of the U.B.E. will however, be difficult to meet (Lawanson & Gede, 2011). Enyi (2013) submits that classroom/school environment is the physical space as well as the teacher logically created media, through which teaching and learning take place. For school programme to be implemented successfully, school facilities which serve as the tools of a workman in the hand of a teacher must be adequately provided. It is of utmost importance that the availability of school facilities will duly contribute to the successful implementation of school programmes. These facilities must not only be provided, they must also be in good condition to enhance learning. This implies sound maintenance culture. For example, in some communities, the school buildings are dilapidated, some de-roofed for years, and others in a state of total neglect. Some of the public

secondary schools are yet to receive government attention (Lawanson & Gede, 2011).

Maintenance of school facilities is the process of increasing the utility of school buildings by regularly servicing capital assets, commercial appliances, and areas inside or around a building. Capital assets include machinery, robotics, research equipment, and medical devices; commercial appliances include boilers and classrooms, hallways, parking lots, and garages in the school. Facility maintenance is applied to commercial buildings such as school building where no manufacturing is involved; industrial maintenance is applied to manufacturing plants, and property maintenance is applied to residential buildings. Educational facilities for educational reasons demand careful direction and proper maintenance or much of its effectiveness can be lost. All stakeholders are expected to be partners in the maintenance of school facilities. However, an individual has to take the responsibility of coordinating and directing school physical resources. In secondary school system, this responsibility falls on the principal. The principal being an educational leader working in an organization which is a system, is tasked with whole lot of responsibilities. The secondary school administrator makes sure that the school environment represents a learning situation. The principal mobilizes the community members and philanthropists to assist in rehabilitating, remodeling, replacement, refurbishment and repair of school facilities. Maintenance of school plant by the principal may lead to school effectiveness. Some people see well landscaped school environment and say that the principal is effective. Most of the renovation works are in the hands of the politicians who are not interested in executing the jobs according to specification. Even in some areas where the Secretaries of Local Education Boards were given the money to ensure that the Head Teacher executed the projects, the Secretaries gave them money far below the cost of the jobs. The implication is that the jobs were not completed. Consequently, the existing state of school facilities leaves much to be desired. Most of the primary and secondary schools in Nigeria are ugly sights to behold as observed by Lawanson and Gede (2019). Funds are needed for the maintenance of the school and for daily school management. Achimugu in Ochai (2012), argues that the place of effective financial management cannot be overemphasized.

Financial Management is a vital activity in any organization. It is the process of planning, organizing, controlling and monitoring financial resources with a view to achieve organizational goals and objectives. A finance manager is designated for handling finance and managing its resources within an enterprise. The crisis, which has ravaged many economics around the world has caused noticeable imbalance in Nigeria. Besides depleting the country's external reserves, it has led substantially to the crash of the stock market, the erosion of the country's revenue by over 60 percent and the depreciation of the national currency, among others Okonjo-Iwela (2009) reported that, "Nigeria has been hit by the global economic crisis together with developed and

developing countries all over the world. The global economic crisis has effects on Nigeria economy which has led to depletion of stocks, loss of investment, loss of jobs occasioned by the closing down of many companies, devaluation of the naira, culminating in government inability to fund education (Kumuyi, 2010). Teachers are not motivated to be effective in their task of effective education curriculum delivery. Inability of teachers to cope with class size since there are not enough manpower and classrooms. The drop has affected salaries of teachers with adverse effect.

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 threatening the productivity of teachers and by extension students' education outcomes (Obayan, 2017). (Anele, 2020). An examination of secondary school education in Nigeria according to Onwhiri (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, indiscipline 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.

The researchers observed that economic recession seems to have profound effect on day to day lives of teachers and non-teaching staff and on general management of public secondary schools in Nigeria, and Taraba State in particular as observed by the researcher. The education sector in Nigeria is feeling the sharp economic recession whether teachers, library workers, administrative clerk, students, stakeholders and the general public alike. It becomes necessary to conduct a study on influence of economic recession on the management of public secondary schools in Southern Senatorial District of Taraba State, Nigeria.

However, economic meltdown has taken a toll on public secondary school students in Benue State as observed by the researchers. The researcher also observed that many parents and guardians have been forced to withdraw their children and wards from private secondary schools to affordable public secondary schools. This the researcher observed could have an adverse effect on provision of facilities and maintenance of facilities. This study therefore investigated influence of economic recession on principals' financial management in public secondary schools in Southern Senatorial District of Taraba State.

Objective of the Study

This study investigated influence of economic recession on the principal financial management of secondary

schools in Southern Senatorial District of Taraba State, Nigeria. The study specifically sought to:

1. determine influence of Economic Recession on the provision of facilities in Southern Senatorial District of Taraba State, Nigeria.
2. determine influence of Economic Recession on maintenance of facilities in secondary schools in Southern Senatorial District of Taraba State, Nigeria.

Research Questions

The following research questions were raised to guide the study:

1. What is influence of Economic Recession on the provision of facilities in secondary schools in Southern Senatorial District of Taraba State, Nigeria?
2. What is influence of Economic Recession on maintenance of facilities in secondary schools in Southern Senatorial District of Taraba State, Nigeria?

Statement of Hypotheses

The following research hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance to guide the study:

1. Economic Recession has no significant influence on the provision of facilities in secondary schools in Southern Senatorial District of Taraba State, Nigeria.
2. Economic Recession has no significant influence on maintenance of facilities in secondary schools in Southern Senatorial District of Taraba State, Nigeria.

II. METHODOLOGY

This study adopted survey research design. The area of study is Southern Senatorial District of Taraba State. The study covers Wukari and Takum Education Zones, consisting four LGAs (Wukari, Ibi, Takum and Ussa). This covered part of the Southern Senatorial District of Taraba State. The population for this study was 1642 teachers from 132 public secondary schools in Southern Senatorial District of Taraba State. A total of 240 teachers representing 15% of the entire population were selected from 20 secondary schools also representing 15% of the entire secondary schools used for the study. This agrees with Glass and Hopkins in Emaikwu (2015) who assert that when a population is above 1000, 10% of the population is enough to be used for the study. Multi-stage sampling procedure was used for the study. The instrument used for data collection was a structured questionnaire titled "Influence of Economic Recession on the Principal Financial Management of Secondary Schools Questionnaire (IERPFMSSQ)" which was developed by the researchers. The instrument is a 10-item questionnaire structured on a four-point rating scale. The reliability of the instrument was estimated using Cronbach Alpha statistic and an overall reliability coefficient of 0.80 was obtained. The data was analyzed using Means and Standard Deviation to answer the research questions. Chi-square (χ^2) test of independence was used to test the

four null hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The decision rule is that, if the p-value is less than the significance level ($\alpha = 0.05$), the null hypothesis would be reject.

III. RESULTS

Research Question One: What is influence of Economic Recession on the provision of facilities in secondary schools in Southern Senatorial District of Taraba State, Nigeria?

Table 1: Mean and Standard Deviation Analysis of the influence of Economic Recession on the provision of facilities in secondary schools in Southern Senatorial District of Taraba State, Nigeria

S/N	Item Statement	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	SD	Decision
1	No provision is made for light in school due to the economic situation	7	70	150	13	2.01	.54	Disagree
2	There are no adequate textbooks to enhance learning activities among students	35	200	5	0	3.24	.99	Agree
3	My school does not have a source of water for the students due to lack of funds	47	175	16	2	3.16	.92	Agree
4	Games and other social activities in school come up only once in a while due to lack of fund	12	221	4	3	3.37	.96	Agree
5	Students hardly make use of the library in my school because library books are old and not useful to them	33	198	9	0	3.20	.94	Agree
Cluster Mean and SD						2.99	.87	Agree

Data presented on Table 1 revealed that, the respondents agreed on items (2, 3, 4 and 5) with mean scores ranging from 2.01 – 3.37 which are above the benchmark of 2.50, except for item 1 with a mean score of 2.01 which is below the benchmark of 2.50 which implies that no provision is made for light in school due to the economic situation. The table also revealed close Standard Deviation values ranging from .54 – .99 which showed that the respondents were homogeneous in their responses. The grand mean of all the items was revealed to be 2.99 and SD= .87. With this grand mean, it can be deduced from this finding that; most schools do not have a source of water for their students due to lack of funds and that games and other social activities in school come up only once in a while due to lack of fund and finally, students hardly make use of the school library due to the fact that most library books are old and not useful to them.

Hypothesis 1: Economic Recession has no significant influence on the provision of facilities in secondary schools in Southern Senatorial District of Taraba State, Nigeria

Table 2: Chi-Square test of Economic Recession has no significant influence on the provision of facilities in secondary schools in Southern Senatorial District of Taraba State, Nigeria

Variables	N	Df	(χ^2)	Sig	Alpha Level	Remark
Economic Recession						
	240	12	287.103	.000	.05	Significant
provision of facilities						

Df = Degree of Freedom; (χ^2) = Chi-Square Calculated Value; Sig = P-Value

Table 2 shows the Chi-square calculated value of 287.103, degree of freedom df =12 and a sig (P-value=0.00) which is less than the alpha value ($\alpha=.05$). Since $P < .05$, the result is significant, therefore the null hypothesis is rejected. This implied that, economic recession has significant influence on provision of facilities in public secondary schools in Southern Senatorial District in Taraba State.

Research Question Two: What is influence of Economic Recession on maintenance of facilities in secondary schools in Southern Senatorial District of Taraba State, Nigeria?

Table 3: Mean and Standard Deviation Analysis of the influence of Economic Recession on maintenance of facilities in secondary schools in Southern Senatorial District of Taraba State, Nigeria

S/N	Item Statement	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	SD	Decision
6	Most of the buildings in school are very old as they have not been renovated for a long time	65	169	0	6	2.89	.86	Agree
7	The equipment in school laboratories are all outdated due to lack of funds to replace them	39	183	14	4	3.00	.89	Agree
8	Due to dilapidated structures, students hardly sit inside the classroom, making the students ungovernable	24	207	6	3	3.17	.93	Agree
9	Since I have been in this school, no major renovation has taken place due to lack of funds	51	181	2	6	2.94	.88	Agree
10	Classrooms in my school have very poor ventilation, making it difficult for teachers and students to concentrate when teaching and learning	20	213	4	3	3.28	.95	Agree
Cluster Mean and SD						3.06	.90	Agree

Data presented on Table 3 revealed that, the respondents agreed on all items (6, 7, 8, 9 and 10) with mean scores ranging from 2.89 – 3.28 which are above the benchmark of 2.50. The table also revealed close Standard Deviation values ranging from .86 – .95 which showed that the respondents were homogeneous in their responses. The grand mean of all the items was revealed to be 3.06 and SD= .90, with this grand mean, it can be deduced from this finding that; most of the buildings in school are very old as they have not been renovated for a long time, due to dilapidated structures, students hardly sit inside the classroom, making the students ungovernable and that classrooms in most public secondary schools have very poor ventilation, making it difficult for teachers and students to concentrate when teaching and learning.

Hypothesis 2: Economic Recession has no significant influence on maintenance of facilities in secondary schools in Southern Senatorial District of Taraba State, Nigeria.

Table 4: Chi-Square test of Economic Recession has no significant influence on maintenance of facilities in secondary schools in Southern Senatorial District of Taraba State, Nigeria

Variables	N	Df	(χ^2)	Sig	Alpha Level	Remark
Economic Recession						
	240	12	291.230	.000	.05	Significant
maintenance of facilities						

Df = Degree of Freedom; (χ^2) = Chi-Square Calculated Value; Sig = P-Value

Table 4 shows the Chi-square calculated value of 291.230, degree of freedom df =12 and a sig (P-value=0.00) which is less than the alpha value ($\alpha=.05$). Since $P<.05$, the result is significant, therefore the null hypothesis is rejected. This implied that, economic recession has significant influence on maintenance of facilities in public secondary schools in Southern Senatorial District of Taraba State.

IV. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The first findings of the study revealed that economic recession negatively influences provision of facilities in public secondary schools in Southern Senatorial District of Taraba State. It was revealed from this finding that most schools do not have a source of water for their students due to lack of funds and that games and other social activities in school come up only once in a while due to lack of fund and finally, students hardly make use of the school library due to the fact that most library books are old and not useful to them. Similarly, a related test of hypothesis revealed that economic recession has negative significant influence on provision of facilities in public secondary schools in Southern Senatorial District of Taraba State. The finding corroborates with that of Okorie and Ngerem (2017) who discovered that economic recession resulted to under-funding of school programmes which invariably affected the quality of teaching and learning as few or near absence of instructional materials is the trend in

most public secondary schools. This finding corroborates with that of Esomonu, Benedict and Eleje (2018) who revealed among others that economic recession has affected the system of education in Nigeria in various forms. The authors maintain that, during this period; government budget too little for the provision of educational facilities, funds are diverted or channeled to other sectors.

The second finding of the study revealed that economic recession negatively affects maintenance of facilities in public secondary schools in Southern Senatorial District of Taraba State. The major findings were that; most of the buildings in school are very old as they have not been renovated for a long time, due to dilapidated structures, students hardly sit inside the classroom, making the students ungovernable and that classrooms in most public secondary schools have very poor ventilation, making it difficult for teachers and students to concentrate when teaching and learning. The test of hypothesis revealed that economic recession has a negative significant influence on maintenance of facilities in public secondary schools in Southern Senatorial District of Taraba State. The finding corroborates with that of Ngerem and Iheanacho (2017) whose findings revealed that overuse and inadequate funding among others as challenges facing principal's effective management of facilities. It was further revealed by Tichaona and Thembinkosi (2013) that: furniture in most educational institutions is quite a challenge; desks, chairs, tables and stools are broken, in most institutions, there are heaps of broken furniture stacked in various locations while learners have inadequate facilities for sitting and writing on. Tichaona and Thembinkosi further revealed that the state of buildings is even more deplorable, so that classrooms and other teaching/learning rooms are inadequate, and those available are dilapidated and in some cases, in a state of disrepair.

V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of the study, the researcher concluded that the role economic stability plays on principals' financial management in public secondary schools in Southern Senatorial District of Taraba State, Nigeria cannot be overemphasized. The researchers therefore envisage that; during economic recession, principals financial management could be channeled on; staff management, students management, provision of facilities and maintenance of facilities as these could serve as appropriate route to further forestall the harsh effects of economic recession teachers in public secondary schools in Southern Senatorial District of Taraba State for enhanced, speedy and effective financial management Use modern financial management technologies.

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are made:

- i. Taraba State Government should endeavour to regularly provide public secondary schools with up-to-date 21st century facilities as this could aid administrative effectiveness of teachers and increase

students' academic performance in public secondary schools in Southern Senatorial District of Taraba State.

- ii. Taraba State Government should endeavour to make policies and various means to ensure that school facilities are adequately maintained to always serve up to expectations, as this could help in cutting the costs of always budgeting for new ones often as a result of reckless spending.

REFERENCES

- [1] Anele, G. (2020). Influence of Economic Recession on Management of Public Secondary Schools in Rivers State. *International Journal of Innovative Education Research*, 8(2):11-18.
- [2] Emaikwu, S. O. (2015). *Fundamentals of Research Methodology and Statistics*. Makurdi: Selfers Academic Press Limited. pp.55-56.
- [3] Ige, A. M. (2013). Provision of secondary education in Nigeria: challenges and way forward. *Journal of Africa Studies and Development*, 5(1):1-9.
- [4] Kumuyi, W. F. (2010). *Global Meltdown The Way Out*. A Monthly Christain Women Mirror Publication of the Deeply Christain Life Ministries. March 2010. Lagos. Life Press Ltd.
- [5] Lawanson, O. A. & Gede, N. T. (2011). Provision and Management of School Facilities for the Implementation of UBE Programme, *Journal of Educational and Social Research*, 1(4):47-56.
- [6] Ngerem, E.I. and Iheanacho, S. (2017). Overcoming Economic Recession through Principals' Effective Management of School Facilities for Quality Education Delivery. *International Journal of Innovative Studies in Sociology and Humanities (IJISSH)*, 2(6): 37.
- [7] Obanyan, S. (2017). Nigerian economy: Recession, depression and recovery. Retrieved on September 08, 2017, retrieved from www.ngrguardiannews.com.
- [8] Ochai, G.O. & Adikwu, V.O. (2018). Influence of Economic Recession on the Management of Secondary Schools in Benue State: Implication for Counseling. *International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences*, 8(3):608 – 618.
- [9] Ochai, G. (2012). *The scope of educational administration*. Makurdi: world-success Publications
- [10] Oladipo S.O. and Fabayo J. O. (2012). "Macroeconomic Dynamics Recession, Oil Sector and Economic Growth in Nigeria" *Asian Transactions on Basic and Applied Sciences (ATBAS)*, Vol.1, No. 6, January, 2012. Pp. 241-252.
- [11] Okonjo-Iweala, N. (2009). *The Global Financial Crisis: Impact and Implication for Nigeria*, Distinguished Lecture Delivered at African University of Science and Technology. Abuja; March 16
- [12] Okorie, F. U. & Ngerem, E. I. (2017). Influence of Economic Recession on the Management of Funds in Public Secondary Schools in Abia State, *International Journal of Agricultural and Home Economics Education (IJAHEE)*, 4(1):1-8.
- [13] Onwuhiri, A. (2008). Old Students and Glory of Unity Schools. In all Nigeria Conference of Principals of Secondary Schools (ANCOPSS) Mandatory Continuing Professional Training (MCPT) Programme at Owerri: ANCOPSS Publication.
- [14] Shiskin, J. C., 2015. Developing Economies of Third World Countries. *Journal of Political Economy*, 7, 80-90.
- [15] Tichaona, M. & Thembinkosi, T. (2013). The impact of the economic meltdown on the education system of Zimbabwe. *International Journal of Asian Social Science*, 3(11): 2254-2266.
- [16] Tinubu, B. A. (2017). Nigerians are suffering. *The Guardian Online*. Retrieved on January 06, 2018, from www.ngrguardiannews.com.
- [17] Wehrich, H., Cannice, M.V. & Koontz, H. (2015). *Management. A Global Entrepreneurial Perspective Twelfth Edition* New Delhi: Tata McGraw-Hill Publishing Company Limited. P.45
- [18] Worldometers (2019). Retrieved in November, 2019, from: <https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/nigeria-population>.