
INFLUENCE OF NIGERIA'S ECONOMY ON OFFICE TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT (OTM) LECTURERS IN FEDERAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION (TECHNICAL) AKOKA, LAGOS STATE

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Abstract

The study is poised to examine the influence of Nigeria's economy on Office Technology and Management Education (OTME) as perceived by lecturers in Federal College of Education (Technical) Akoka, Lagos state. In an attempt to achieve the objectives of this study, three research questions were raised. Descriptive research design was used for the study. The population covered all the remaining nine (9) Office Technology and Management Education (OTME) lecturers who are currently working in Federal College of Education (Technical), Akoka, Lagos state. All the OTME lecturers were selected for the study through census sampling technique. Questionnaire on Nigeria's Economy and OTME (QNE-OTME) was developed and used to elicit information from OTME lecturers. The instrument assumed 4-points rating scale and was subjected to both face and content validity. Data collection for the study was done during working hours of the College by meeting the participants and administering the instrument unto them. All the data collected were analyzed using mean and standard deviation so as to answer the formulated research questions. The findings revealed that, Nigeria's economy is observed to be in distressing situation as a result of debt regularly incurred by government, regular increase in cost of resources in the country, inability of the College Management to adequately provide for the needs of OTME department and the inability of the government to meet up with the budgetary allocations for tertiary institutions. The study recommended that, College management should encourage OTME department to start private business ventures based on the available skills in OTME so as to generate more revenues for the college to cater for areas of needs in the department so as to reduce total dependent on the college for financing the department in spite of the economic situation.

Keywords: *Nigeria's Economy, Office Technology and Management Education (OTME).*

Introduction

Access to quality training in Office Technology and Management Education (OTME) provided through the lecturers can be viewed as a gateway to better paying jobs and higher quality of life for the graduates of the course. Besides, being a graduate of OTME often attract prospective students and employers of labour for immediate employment in the world of work Nigeria is often considered as one of the world's resource rich economies most at risk from the current economic crisis. Atime (2019) opined that, today, the global economy, particularly

the economy of developing countries such as Nigeria is facing challenging times as a result of fall in the global prices of petroleum products. The Nigerian economy is indeed, regressing and it can be said to be in distressing situation. Atime (2019) stated that, when economies of nations are in distress, they are said to be in crisis, which the economic crisis assumes international dimensions, the phenomenon that is described as global economic crisis. Sani (2018) stated that, most often, economic crisis occurs as a result of "excessive exuberance, poor regulatory oversight, dodgy accounting, herd

mentalities, and in many cases, a sense of infallibility. And when countries and markets become excessively exuberant and begin to assume a sense of infallibility on the world's economy, the big bang comes: they falter and eventually crash.

The Nigeria's economy is primary product oriented and dominated by agriculture and crude oil production. The oil and gas sector is the main driver of the economy, in terms of revenue, foreign exchange and foreign investment (Edo & Ekelegbe, 2014). The Nigeria Gas & Oil sector's account for about 90% of total exports, 95% of foreign exchange earnings, and about 80% of budgetary revenues. The sector's contribution to the GDP was 14.7% of 2013 (African Development Bank, 2013). However, the oil and gas sector's contribution to Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product, (GDP) dropped by 1.48 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2014 to 8.97 Per cent from its 10.45 per cent contribution in the third quarter of 2014 (Eboh,2015).

According to Atime (2019) the dominant economic activity in Nigeria is agriculture. The sector accounted for 40% of GDP in 2011 and employing about 70% of the population (Edo and Ekelegbe, 2013). The sector experienced decline following the oil boom of the 1970s. Agriculture's share of exports was 75% in 1965 but declined to a mere 3% in 2012 (Ignite, cited in Edo and Ekelegbe, 2013). Its contribution to the GDP was 63% in 1960 but declined to 34% in 1988, 33.4% in 2009 and 30.9% in 2012. The diminishing role of the agriculture sector in the Nigerian economy is linked to the impact of the oil boom, unfavorable weather conditions, and inadequate supply of agricultural inputs, poor marketing and

infrastructure, the activities of marketing boards, rural-urban migration and faulty domestic policies on agriculture.

As stated by Sani (2018) from 1970 upward oil production and exploration started to dominate the economy and this caused neglect of the agricultural and the manufacturing sector in favor of an unhealthy dependence on crude oil. Today, Nigeria is almost entirely dependent on oil sales to finance the economy. But with the deepening of oil prices to \$45.21 (as at October, 2015), virtually all the federating states are finding it difficult to pay basic salaries of workers, let alone the financing of capital projects (Atime, 2019). These situations did not exempt education sector, most especially those in OTME department.

No tertiary institution can fulfill its mandate unless it is organized and made to function. This can only be possible if adequately funded. Objectively speaking, the condition of most tertiary institutions in Nigeria in terms of facilities and the right calibre of lecturers are pitiable. According to Bamiro & Adedeji (2010) Most of such institutions, especially the public ones, lack adequate quantity and quality of academic staff. As a consequence of the poor condition of tertiary institutions in Nigeria, they have not been able to make the desired impact on the society. In most cases, state and private tertiary institutions rely on borrowing qualified academic staff to boost their profile during accreditation (Bamiro & Adedeji, 2010).

Nebo (2017) reveled the obvious fact that the world has left Nigeria behind in terms of education and using education to change the society – Nigerian students are still consigned to obsolete knowledge and methods of

teaching which their counterparts in many countries left perhaps a decade or more ago. Nigerian tertiary education lags behind and their graduates ill-prepared for effective functioning. These are rooted in the neglect which the system, especially public institutions, has suffered over the years. Governments pay lip service to the need to provide public institutions what they require to be effective. These are as a result of the influence of Nigeria's economy which the government struggles to sustain (Nebo, 2018). Increasing enrolment in the face of macroeconomic crises according to Ajayi and Ekundayo (2008) has a serious implication more especially for Nigeria, and if enrolment number is to be increased, then more higher education institutions will have to be established. The allocation to education has dropped to a low of 8.7 percent in 2013 which is lower than 2012 allocation of 10 percent. This is very low compared to the 26 percent recommendation of the UNESCO (Osinulu & Daramola, 2013; Akinyemi, 2013). The assumption is that the total recurrent expenditure on higher education depends on the desired level of public expenditure per student and the expected total number of students in public institutions.

Sani (2018) found out that, there is a positive correlation between public finance and enrolment, if higher education meets with the stated objective of teaching and learning likewise the research and community service then such an increase in enrolment will be affected with a corresponding increase in funding. This is a serious problem in Nigeria; the budgetary allocation to education has been on the decline while enrolment doubled every year (Afolayan, 2015). The effect will be seen in physical deterioration and a general low

quality of graduate output which will in turn affect the economic growth and the development of the country (Simbowale, (2003) Bamiro & Adedeji, 2010). These situations are relevant to what is experienced in OTME Department where resources are rarely upgraded, lecturers not adequately taken care of and delay in providing teaching and non-teaching resources for work operations.

Statement of the Problem

The researcher observed that, in the course of training students in OTME programme there are problems of inadequate learning resources to serve the students at various levels, OTME lecturers in Federal College of Education (Technical, Akoka Lagos)often find it difficult to access sponsorship funds for conferences, higher studies and publishing books most especially from TETFUND, distorted payment by IPPIS, poor funding of the programme, high rate of dropouts due to inability to pay schools and other expenses. All these can be traced to problems associated with Nigeria's economy and they placed serious constraints on the productivity of the programme. In an attempt to provide solutions to these problems, the researcher found this study very necessary.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study is to look into the influence of Nigeria's economy on Office Technology and Management Education (OTME) as perceived by lecturers in Federal College of Education (Technical) Akoka, Lagos state. Specifically, the study seeks to find out:

1. The nature of Nigeria's economy as perceived by the OTME lecturers
2. The influence of Nigeria's economy on OTME perceived by the OTME lecturers

3. Strategies for enhancing OTME in spite of nature of the Nigeria's economy

Research Questions

The following research questions shall guide this study:

- How do OTME lecturers perceive the nature of Nigeria's economy?
- How do OTME lecturers perceive the influence of Nigeria's economy on OTME?
- What are the strategies for enhancing OTME in spite of nature of the Nigeria's economy?

Methodology

Descriptive research design was used for the study. The population covered all the remaining nine (9) Office Technology and Management Education (OTME) lecturers who are currently working in Federal College of Education (Technical), Akoka, Lagos state. All the OTME lecturers were selected for the study through census sampling technique. The instrument used to collect data was a structured questionnaire designed by the researchers. The instrument has 16 items in three clusters generated from the research questions designed to elicit information on the subjects namely, Questionnaire on Nigeria's Economy and OTME Lecturers in FCE(T), Akoka. The instrument was analyzed

descriptively using mean and standard deviation based on a 4-points rating scale of (Strongly Agreed 4pts, Agreed 3pts, Disagreed 2pts and Strongly Disagree 1pt). The decision rule was that any item with a mean score of 2.50 and above was taken as Agree (A) while items with mean score of below 2.50 were regarded as Strongly Disagreed (SD). The instrument was subjected to both face and content validation to determine its adequacy, appropriateness for the study and for its proper wordings. This was done by presenting it to an expert in measurement and evaluation. Based on the comments and suggestions, the instrument was modified to suit the study. Data collection for the study was done during working hours of the College by meeting the participants and interrogating them and thereafter, administered the instrument to them. To ascertain the reliability of the instrument for the study, it was trial tested in Yaba College of Technology Yaba Lagos. Five copies of the instrument were administered to Business Educators in the department of Vocational Education. All the data collected were analyzed using mean and standard deviation so as to answer the formulated research questions.

Results:**Research Question 1** How do OTME lecturers perceive the nature of Nigeria's economy?

S/N	Statement	SA	A	D	SD	mean	Std.	Remark
1	Nigeria's economy is often not exempted from the influence of global economic crisis	6	2	-	-	3.75	0.463	Accepted
2	Nigeria's economy is often observed to be in distressing situation as a result debt regularly incurred by government	5	3	-	-	3.63	0.518	Accepted
3	Regular increase in cost of resources often reveals the status of the economic situation of country	4	4	-	-	3.50	0.535	Accepted
4	Inability of the College Management to adequately provide for the needs of OTME department is a reflection of the economy	4	4	-	-	3.50	0.535	Accepted
5	Government' inability to meet up with the budgetary allocations for tertiary institutions often shows the status of the economy.	6	2	-	-	3.75	0.463	Accepted

Table 1: Responses on the nature of Nigeria's economy as perceived by the OTME lecturers

Table 1 above shows that items 1-5 were accepted based on the decision that their mean ratings were greater than mean $X = 2.50$ cut off point. This revealed that, most of the respondents agreed that Nigeria's economy is often not exempted from the influence of global economic crisis, it is observed to be in distressing situation as a result debt regularly incurred by government and that, regular

increase in cost of resources often reveals the status of the economic situation of the country. Inability of the College Management to adequately provide for the needs of OTME department is a reflection of the economy and that, government' inability to meet up with the budgetary allocations for tertiary institutions often shows the status of the economy.

Research Question 2 How do OTME lecturers perceive the influence of Nigeria's economy on OTME?

Table 2: Responses on the influence of Nigeria's economy on OTME perceived by the OTME lecturers

S/N	Statement	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	Std.	Remark
6	Learning resources in OTME are rarely upgraded due Nigeria's economy	2	-	3	3	2.13	1.246	Rejected
7	physical deterioration of OTME facilities is often as a result of Nigeria's economy	1	2	3	2	2.25	1.035	Rejected
8	Poor economy situation in Nigeria often lead to distorted payment by IPPIS (Independent payroll and personnel information system) for lecturers in OTME	1	2	2	3	2.13	1.126	Rejected
9	OTME lecturers often suffer delayed salary increment which is often caused by the situation of Nigeria's economy	-	2	4	2	2.00	0.756	Rejected
10	Unfriendly economy situation of Nigeria often makes it difficult for OTME lecturers to publish textbooks in their fields of specializations	-	2	2	4	1.75	0.886	Rejected
11	Stringent rules by TETFUND on plagiarism is to an extent, reduce the provision for sponsorship due to the nature of the economy	2	-	3	3	2.13	1.246	Rejected
12	OTME lecturers are rarely sponsored for conferences outside the country due to Nigeria' economy	1	2	2	3	2.13	1.124	Rejected

Table 2 above shows that items 6-12 were all rejected based on the decision that their mean ratings were less than mean $X = 2.50$ cut off point. This revealed that, most of the respondents disagreed that, learning resources in OTME are rarely upgraded due Nigeria's economy, physical deterioration of OTME facilities is often as a result of Nigeria's economy, poor economy situation in Nigeria often lead to distorted payment by IPPIS (Independent payroll and personnel information system) for lecturers in OTME ,

OTME lecturers often suffer delayed salary increment which is often caused by the situation of Nigeria's economy, unfriendly economy situation of Nigeria often makes it difficult for OTME to publish textbooks in their fields of specializations, stringent rules by TETFUND on plagiarism is to an extent, reduce the provision for sponsorship due to the nature of the economy and that, OTME lecturers are rarely sponsored for conferences outside the country due to Nigeria' economy.

Research Question 3

What are the strategies for enhancing OTME in spite of nature of the Nigeria's economy?

Table 3: Responses on strategies for enhancing OTME in spite of nature of the Nigeria's economy

S/N	Statement	SA	A	D	SD	mean	Std.	Remark
13	The college management support OTME department to run private ventures to generate revenues for funding the department	6	2	-	-	3.75	0.463	Accepted
14	Private business organizations supports government resource inputs in OTME for better learning experience	7	1	-	-	3.88	0.354	Accepted
15	Government considers prompt payment of lecturers' salary as a priority in spite of the economy situation	5	3	-	-	3.63	0.518	Accepted
16	OTME students are encouraged to buy textbooks written by their lecturers in order to increase earning.	2	5	1	-	3.13	0.641	Accepted

Table 3 above shows that items 13-16 were accepted based on the decision that their mean ratings were greater than mean $X = 2.50$ cut off point. This revealed that, most of the respondents agreed that, the college management should be encouraged to work in collaboration with OTME department to run private ventures to generate revenues for funding the department, private business organizations should be encouraged to supports government resource inputs in OTME for better learning experience, government should be encouraged to consider prompt payment of lecturers' salary as a priority in spite of the economy situation and that, OTME students should be encouraged to buy textbooks written by their lecturers in order to increase earning.

Discussion of Findings

The following findings are made based on the analysis of data collected:

The findings of the study revealed that, Nigeria's economy is often not exempted

from the influence of global economic crisis, it is observed to be in distressing situation as a result of debt regularly incurred by government, regular increase in cost of resources in the country, inability of the College Management to adequately provide for the needs of OTME department and the inability of the government to meet up with the budgetary allocations for tertiary institutions which often shows the status of the economy. Atime (2019) study agreed with these findings by stating that, today, the global economy, particularly the economy of developing countries such as Nigeria is facing challenging times as a result of fall in the global prices of petroleum products. The Nigerian economy is indeed, regressing and it can be said to be in distressing situation.

Secondly, the findings of this study revealed that, learning resources in OTME are often upgraded and that, physical deterioration of OTME facilities is rarely as a result of Nigeria's economy. Poor economy situation

in Nigeria rarely lead to distorted payment by IPPIS (Independent payroll and personnel information system) for lecturers in OTME and that, delayed salary increment of OTME lecturers is rarely caused by the situation of Nigeria's economy. The findings also revealed that, unfriendly economy situation of Nigeria rarely hinders OTME lecturers to publish textbooks in their fields of specializations, stringent rules by TETFUND on plagiarism is not to reduce the provision for sponsorship regardless the nature of the economy and that, OTME lecturers are often sponsored for conferences outside the country in spite Nigeria' economy. These findings disagreed with the study of Nebo (2017) who stated that, the world has left Nigeria behind in terms of education and using education to change the society – Nigerian students are still consigned to obsolete knowledge and methods of teaching which their counterparts in many countries left perhaps a decade or more ago.

Lastly, the findings revealed that, the college management should be encouraged to work in collaboration with OTME department to run private ventures to generate revenues for funding the department, private business organizations should be encouraged to supports government resource inputs in OTME for better learning experience, government should be encouraged to consider prompt payment of lecturers' salary as a priority in spite of the economy situation and that, OTME students should be encouraged to buy textbooks written by their lecturers in order to increase earning.

Conclusion

The nature of Nigeria economy as perceived by the OTME Lecturers is often observed to be in distressing situation as a result of

regularly incurred debt by the government. This also reflects the inability of the College Management to adequately provide for the needs of OTME Department. The learning resources in OTME Department at F.C.E.(T), Akoka are obsolete likewise the physical deterioration of the facilities is equally a result of the poor economy situation in Nigeria. The influence of Nigeria's economy on OTME should be positively perceived by the Lectures in the academic pursuit of the students (Teaching & Learning facilities), Lecturers remuneration to consider prompt payment Lecturers academic upgrade and social development in spite of the economy situation. The college should be able to maintain financial responsibility, in spite the problems associated with the Nigeria' economy.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made based on the findings of this study:

1. Nigeria no doubt is affected by the global economic crisis coupled with the exchange rates which have also depreciated and the consequences are unpalatable and scorching. Based on this, college management should always source for locally made teaching and learning resources for OTME Department so as to continually upgrade the resources in spite of the economy situation.
2. College management should encourage OTME department to start private business ventures based on the available skills in OTME so as to generate more revenues for the college to cater for areas of needs in the department so as to reduce total dependent on the college for financing the department in spite of the economic situation.

3. College management should enlighten government on the need to encourage private sector to subsidize financing of colleges of education as done in most countries. This will help to adequately fund education and also, reduce financial pressure on the government in spite of the influence of global economic crisis which affect everything.
4. Incessant strikes by staff unions due to welfare related issues should always be given prompt attention and strategic resolution by the college management and government. So as to ensure stability of academic sessions and good quality of graduates in the college.
5. OTME graduates should be encouraged to start business ventures based on the skills acquired during the programme so as to contribute to economic development, reduce unemployment and contribute towards solving economic problems in the society.

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