

Administration of Research Programme in Nigerian Public Universities: Problems and Way Forward

¹Ogunode Niyi Jacob, ²Jegede Deborah, ³Adah Samuel, ⁴Audu Elizabeth I,
⁵Ajape Temitope Solomon

ogunodejacob@gmail.com
University of Abuja

ABSTRACT

Research programme is one of the major programme of the universities. It is a key to the university's development. Research programme of the universities is one of the key indicators used to measure the performance of the universities. The administration of research programme in Nigerian public universities faces many problems. Therefore, this article discusses the problems facing the administration of research programme in public universities in Nigeria. The article identified; inadequate research funding, unstable academic calendar/strike Actions, inadequate infrastructural facilities, brain-drain, insecurity, corruption, poor technological advancement/poor ICT literacy. Others are poor participation of private sector in research development and lack of conducive working (research) environment as problems facing the administration of research programme. To address these problems, this article recommends adequate funding of research, provision of adequate infrastructural facilities, ensure stable academic staff, fight all institutions in the universities, ensure adequate security in the universities, encourage private participation in the development of research, provision of conducive research environment and Soften of the conditions attached to research Grantsethod.

Keywords: Administration, Public, Universities, Research, Programme

ABSTRAK

Program penelitian merupakan salah satu program utama di perguruan tinggi. Itu adalah kunci perkembangan universitas. Program penelitian perguruan tinggi merupakan salah satu indikator kunci yang digunakan untuk mengukur kinerja perguruan tinggi. Administrasi program penelitian di universitas negeri Nigeria menghadapi banyak masalah. Oleh karena itu, artikel ini membahas permasalahan yang dihadapi administrasi program penelitian di universitas negeri di Nigeria. Artikel tersebut diidentifikasi; pendanaan penelitian yang tidak memadai, kalender akademik / aksi pemogokan yang tidak stabil, fasilitas infrastruktur yang tidak memadai, brain-drain, ketidakamanan, korupsi, kemajuan teknologi yang buruk / literasi TIK yang buruk. Lainnya adalah partisipasi swasta yang kurang baik dalam pengembangan penelitian dan kurangnya lingkungan kerja (penelitian) yang kondusif sebagai kendala yang dihadapi dalam penyelenggaraan program penelitian. Untuk mengatasi permasalahan tersebut, artikel ini merekomendasikan pendanaan penelitian yang memadai, penyediaan fasilitas infrastruktur yang memadai, memastikan staf akademik yang stabil, memerangi semua institusi di perguruan tinggi, memastikan keamanan yang memadai di perguruan tinggi, mendorong partisipasi swasta dalam pengembangan penelitian, penyediaan yang kondusif. penelitian lingkungan dan Melunakkan kondisi yang melekat pada penelitian Grantsethod.

Kata Kunci: Administrasi, Umum, Perguruan Tinggi, Penelitian, Prog



INTRODUCTION

Higher institutions are known for conducting researches. Higher institutions' major programmes are teaching, researching, and community services. Ogunode & Abubakar (2020) submitted that research is the second cardinal programme of higher institutions. Research is very important to the development of the society. Research is conducted mostly in the higher institutions environment with the objectives to solve problems affecting the society. The academic staff is saddled with the responsibilities of carrying out researches in the universities. Conducting research is one criterion for measuring their performance. Paul (2015) submitted that the conduct of research is one of the basic functions of tertiary institutions, which comprised Universities, Polytechnics, Monothechnics and Colleges of Education. The academic staffs of these institutions are compulsorily required to carry out research activities as their promotions are primarily based on their research outputs. Apart from the academic staff being promoted through research publications, research activities enhance their credibility, status, and also add value both to their immediate community and the larger global community. Yusuf (2012) opined that the role of higher education research in national development cannot be overemphasized. However, research in Nigeria's institutions of higher learning to comprise the universities, polytechnics and colleges of education has yet to make a real impact on the technological advancement of the country and the socio-economic well-being of its citizenry. The achievement of the aims of research programme in the Nigerian public universities depends on effective administration of research programme. There are many problems

that plagued the research programme of the Nigerian higher institutions (Yusuf 2012, Ogunode & Abubakar (2020). This article is aim to discuss the problems faced by the administration of research programme in the Nigerian public universities.

2.0 CONCEPT OF PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

The National Policy on Education (2004) defines Higher Education as the Post -Secondary Section of the National education system, which is given of Universities, Polytechnics and Colleges of Technology including courses as are given by the Colleges of Education, Advanced Teachers Training colleges, Correspondence Colleges and such institutions as may be allied to them. According to Adeyemi (2001), Higher Education is a system which embraces much of the country's research capacity and reproduces majority of the skilled professionals that are required in the labour market. Obanya (1999) disclosed that Higher Education includes all forms of professional institutions drawing from the pool of persons who have completed various forms of secondary school education: Institution of the military, the police, nurses, agriculture, forestry, veterinary workers, catering services, tourism, secretarial services and other combinations of programmes. The aims of higher education in Nigeria include: Higher education, including professional education has the following aims: the acquisition, development and inculcation of the proper value orientation for the survival of the individual and societies; development of the intellectual capacities of individuals to understand and appreciate environment; acquisition of both physical and intellectual skills which will enable individuals to develop into useful members of the community; the

acquisition of an overview of the local and external environments (National Policy on Education, 2004).

In Nigeria, the constitution allows the both public and private ownership of universities. The public universities are universities owned by the government. Public universities are universities established by law to provide post-secondary school education for the youths. Presently, the Nigerian public universities are ninety-five four five (45) for state while fifty for the federal government (50) (Source NUC,2020).

The three cardinal programmes of the universities are teaching programme, research programme and community services. Research programme is the second cardinal programme of the universities. It is among the criteria used for measuring the performance of the universities. The aim of research programme of the universities is to aid the social, economic and technological advancement of the country.

CONCEPT OF RESEARCH PROGRAMME

There are many definitions of research by different researchers. According to Ibidapo Obe, (2010) research refers to creating new knowledge or new insights on knowledge, or unlocking knowledge. Okeke (2004) viewed research as an activity that involves observation and description of the characteristic properties of objects or events to discover relationships between variables and developing generalization that may predict future occurrences. Osualla, (2001) defines research as arriving at dependable solutions to problems through the planned and systematic collection, analysis and interpretation of data. Research is oriented towards the discovering of the relationships that exist among the phenomena of the

world in which we live. Research according to Bako (2005) is a systematic search and investigation for increasing the sum of knowledge; and research and development (R&D) as the search and application of this knowledge for the development of improved products, services and industrial processes of capital development. Research is seen by Ajoku as the search for knowledge, truth, similarities and relationships, and finding solutions to problems through the systematic collection, analysis and interpretation of data. From the above definition research can be sum to be involves identification of problems, gathering new data, finding solution to a problem through carefully designed procedures and logical analysis. Research therefore is an intensive and extensive search for solutions to problems in a society. The problem could be in education, business, politics, etc. Paul, (2015) and Fawoel, Egbokhare, Itiola, Odejide and Olayinka (2006) also see research as a systematic investigation including development, testing and evaluation, designed to develop or to contribute to knowledge. Research is a curiosity-driven activity that has the purpose of discovery and advancement of knowledge. The focus of a research can range from physical thing, an event, a process, a social institution of a social condition, biological condition, etc (Paul, 2015; Fawoel, Egbokhare, Itiola, Odejide and Olayinka, 2006).

Research Programme Administration

Importance of Conducting Research in Universities

The important of research to the social, economic and technological advancement cannot be underestimated. Research is the key to development of a nation. Research must be given proper attention in the higher institutions. Roseline, (2012) submits that Universities support knowledge driven economic growth strategies and poverty reduction by generating new

knowledge, building the capacity to access existing stores of global knowledge and to adapt that knowledge to local use. Technical innovations and their diffusion lead to higher productivity, and most innovations are products of basic and applied research undertaken in the universities. Progress in agriculture, health, environmental sectors, science, engineering and technology heavily depends on the application of such innovations. According to Paul (2015) the following are the importance of conducting researchers:

Quantitative Education: Quantitative education that makes acquisition of useful skills, desirable values, knowledge, attitudes, ideas and competencies necessary for self-reliance can only be possible through adequate research work. It also results in qualitative instruction, articulate and confident graduates for the society's developmental activities. The quality of the citizens of a country depends on the quality of their education. When research work leads to quality education, the desired personnel required to serve in the various sectors of the economy is guaranteed (Paul, 2015).

Liberation from Ignorance and Poverty: Research activities and findings liberate man from poverty and ignorance. Research findings can liberate man from the restraints and limitations of ignorance and dependency through exposure. Ignorance and illiteracy are serious leading causes of socio-economic retrogression and poverty in the countries of the world, including Nigeria. The advanced countries of the world like Japan, America, etc, are flourishing economically because of their exposure to research. In fact, we opined they are advanced because of the progress they have made in the various fields of human endeavors. No

nation in the world has ever thrived on the wings of illiteracy. Adequate research leads to the discovery of new techniques, ideas and ways of doing things which will in turn, lead to wealth creation (Paul, 2015).

Improvement in Standard of Living: Research findings that are worthwhile transform the society positively and also improve the overall quality of life. Without research, old knowledge will only be recycled and at a point will become anachronistic. It is important then that research work should show novelty of ideas and not repetitive but reproductive to have an impact on the life of the society. The variety of results that come from research will expose facts, provide evidence, discover the unknown and ultimately, expand the frontier of knowledge in the different areas of studies (Paul, 2015, Emunemu, 2009). All these will improve the standard of living, increase chances of employment, pave way for economic opportunities and upward social mobility.

Provision of Solutions to Counterparty Problems: When researchers effectively embark upon and successfully complete researches designed to understand and explain various aspects of society or nature, there will be solutions to the social and natural problems that impinge on human wellbeing in the immediate environment and globally (Ajayi, 2009). Take for instance, the nation can benefit from research findings or discoveries that will provide solutions to some naughty issues like climate change, HIV/AIDS and other related health problems. Through scientific explorations, means of curing myriads of terribly devastating sicknesses and diseases can be discovered and reduce the mortality rates (Paul, 2015)..

Improvement in Educational Practices: Through research, relevant strategies and methods of learning and teaching

new concepts can be learnt from other nations and adapted to improve instructional effectiveness. A lot of changes have taken place in teaching situations today, and many more will still take place as long as educational research is being conducted. Educational research is an academic endeavor which is geared towards finding novel ways to improve the approaches used in providing educational activities in the school system (Ayodele-Bamisaiye, 2005). An educational research is also conducted to develop alternative approaches in the professional practice of education in the personality of the learners (Paul, 2015).

Level of Research Programme in Public Universities

The level at which research is being conducted in the Nigerian public universities is poor and not encouraging. The research performance is below average in many public universities. (Charles, Ijeoma & John 2009) observed that the Nigerian Tertiary Institutions, Universities inclusive, have three statutory functions to perform and these include teaching, research and community service. While we give much attention to teaching, we committed less effort to research. The Nigerian Universities which should exist as centers for knowledge dissemination, research and knowledge creation have not maintained their full savour.

Few studies revealed that research programme is not well developed in the Nigerian public universities. Aluede and Igbineweka (2001) did a study in the University of Benin and their result showed University of Benin, for the 1994/95 and 1995/96, N8, 399,874.00 and N9, 327,852.00 were respectively released as research grants for the institution with 750 academic staff on roll. Assuming that each staff had a right to the allocation, then each lecturer in

1994/95 would have received a paltry sum of approximately N 11, 866.50, while in 1995/96 each academic staff would have received N12,437.14 for research (Aluede & Igbineweka, 2001)

Charles, Ijeoma & John (2009) cited Donwa (2006) who reported that the average annual allocation to federal universities for recurrent expenditure is 0.4% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and 5% of this allocation, is to be used for research. This report shows that research funding by government is less than 1% GDP and this is grossly inadequate for meaningful research. Thus, the amount of research funding by government is a function of the total funding for recurrent expenditure in the Universities.

Charles, Ijeoma & John (2009) did a study and the result of the study revealed self-funding as a major source of research funding in Nigerian Universities, followed by government sector and foreign agencies. Self-funding was identified as the most potent source of research funding accessed by University lecturers. The study showed that a greater percentage of lecturers, 246 (76.35%), had not benefited from research grants for many years. This article identifies inadequate funding of research and stringent conditions attached to research grants as two major constraints to accessing research funds by lecturers.

Emunemu, (2009) opined that the quality of research being carried out by Nigerian academics is of low standard, when compared to their counterparts in other parts of the world. Paul (2015) and Owan, (2005) observed that it is necessary to note that no university in Africa features among the two hundred in the world. This poor performance is linked to ineffective research programme and (Paul, 2015) submitted that it is a likely indication of the low standard of teaching, particularly research in this part of the world.

Akpochafo (2009) disclosed that currently, graduate students, staff-in-training and academic staff who are poorly paid funded research in Nigerian Universities. Bako (2005) in his study discovered that the bulk of University research has been self funded by graduate students, staff-in-training and academic staff, and over 80% has been from salaries and parents.

PROBLEMS FACED BY RESEARCH PROGRAMME IN NIGERIAN PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

The following are the problems faced by research programme administration in the Nigerian public universities: inadequate research funding, unstable academic calendar/strike Actions, inadequate infrastructural facilities, brain-drain, insecurity, corruption, poor technological advancement/poor ICT literacy and poor participation of private sector in research development

Inadequate Research Funds

Inadequate research fund is a major problem facing research programme in the Nigerian public universities. The budgetary allocation for the administration of research programme is not adequate. Udida et al. (2009) observed that the inability of the Nigerian government to accept and implement the 26% funding formula for education recommended by the UNESCO impact negatively on the performance and sustainability of higher education. Thus, it has become obvious that Nigeria's neglect of the funding formula is detrimental to higher educational institution performance and development aspiration as quality performance is the veritable instrument for sustenance of education system. This neglect has further precipitated crises in the entire higher educational systems as effective teaching; research and service are no longer taking place seriously. Paul (2015) submitted that Funding has always been the major

constraint to research development and their implementation. The replacement of infrastructure, tools, machines, and recruitment of qualified staff that can make research work relevant to the needs of the modern day Nigeria all need money, which is not always available. Grants are also difficult to come by. Okafor (2001) stated that lack of funds is affecting research in the universities and that there is no sign that these problems will not continue in the future. The universities are supposed to engage in research, not only to push out the frontiers of knowledge, but to solve the problems of the society. Charles, Ijeoma & John (2009) argued that funding of universities and research is inadequate. This condition accounts for part of the reasons University lecturers cannot access research funding.

Unstable Academic Calendar/Strike Actions

Strike action by different union groups in the public universities in Nigeria is a very enormous challenge facing the administration of research programme in the universities. We know Nigerian public universities for strike actions. The refusal of the federal government to implement the agreement reached with the different union groups in the universities led to the incessant strike actions. Ogunode & Abubakar (2020) observed that another challenge facing the Nigerian higher institutions is the problem of unstable academic calendar. The various unions and groups within the schools also contributed to the unstable academic calendar. They often embarked on strike action because of disagreement with the government on welfare issues. The strike actions always disrupt the academic programme of the schools, causing more cost and prolong student programme. Strike actions in the tertiary institutions of learning have constituted a serious threat to effective learning. All the tertiary institutions witnessed a strike action in 2009. Non-accreditation of some programmes in

our tertiary institutions is another major factor for quality of instruction. Ogunode (2020) did a study investigated the causes of unstable academic calendar in Nigerian higher institutions. The result collected showed that that Academic Staff Union of Universities/Non Academic Staff of Union of Universities (ASUU/NASU) Strikes, students' election, communal crisis, increase in school fees, cultic conflict, National programme and public holiday are factors responsible for unstable academic calendar of higher education in Nigeria. It was also established that half bake graduates, poor coverage of syllabus and poor research development were the effects of strike actions. The strike actions by the union groups in the public universities is hindering and frustrating the development of research programme in the Nigerian universities.

Inadequate Infrastructural facilities

Inadequate infrastructural facilities are another big problem preventing research development in the Nigerian public universities. Ebehikhalu & Dawam (2017) observed that physical facilities for teaching and learning, researching in the universities include: Faculty/ departmental buildings/complexes (lecture rooms, lecture theatres, auditoria, staff offices, seminar/conference/board rooms, laboratories, workshops, studios, moot courts, farms, gymnasias etc); Libraries (central libraries, specialized/professional libraries, faculty libraries, departmental libraries etc); Institute/centers (specialized facilities e.g. ICT infrastructure, special laboratories, conference facilities etc). Infrastructural facilities required for conducting research include laboratories, constant power supply, internet services, water, apparatus, etc. These facilities are in shortage supply in majorities of public universities. **Paul (2015) observed that** research infrastructure in institutions of higher

learning is grossly inadequate and weak. There is a dearth of modern equipment, the old ones when available, are no longer serviceable because the manufacturers have long faded them out of their production lines. Workshops, libraries, laboratories are ill-equipped and obsolete educational facilities are difficult to replace if not impossible. All these hinder research activities and findings. Ebehikhalu & Dawam (2017) observed that most of the laboratory furnishings are dilapidated and relevant equipment are lacking. The available though inadequate equipment is not functional and obsolete. Sometimes, the laboratories double as lecture rooms. The library is not conducive for learning. Provision of ventilation is very poor with inadequate lighting, overcrowded and stuffy. At the main campus, there was only one central, inadequately equipped engineering workshop for eight programmes. The campus is overcrowded with a high density of activities, and the land is threatened by deep gully erosion. The authority could not connect the university to the water supply. Only two bore holes are currently functional. Electricity is one of the research resources that must be constant to aid conduct of research in the laboratories, but it is unfortunate that unstable power supply is affecting the development of research in the Nigerian public universities. Paul (2015), and Odiegwu, (2009) argued that the prevalent epileptic kind of power supply cannot support meaningful research activities in higher institutions of learning in Nigeria. Statistics have shown that poor electricity supply in the country is endangering the growth of the critical sectors of the economy in which the education sector is not singled out. In the education sector, only a trickle of daily electricity production reportedly goes in to the country's 93 higher institutions of learning. Paul (2015) observed that the situation is still the same today and has no doubt, rendered

research equipment dysfunctional especially the ICT systems- The results and effects is that some tertiary institutions resort to diesel propelled generators which on their own, are expensive and environmentally unfriendly. Also, research processes are disrupted as they only work for a limited period. The situation of shortage of laboratories in many universities has forced lecturers and students to be using other resources for conducting research. Enogholase (2013) stated that students were using kerosene stoves instead of gas burners to conduct experiments, kept specimens in the bottles instead of the appropriate places where such specimen should have been kept. There are many factors responsible for inadequate research facilities in the public universities. Corruption have been identified by Ebehikhalu & Dawam (2017) as one of the major factor when they submitted that the abysmal state teaching and learning infrastructure in Nigerian Universities is a consequence of the financial imbroglio in the nation's ivory tower, due to government refusal to accord the university its pride of place in terms of funding, and the high level of corruption in the management of universities' resources. Nigerian universities have been grossly underfunded and the consequence of this has manifested in the deficiency of teaching and learning infrastructural facilities development in the universities. Many of the stakeholders in the university system in Nigeria are also responsible for the rot in the university system. ASUU has struggled to force the government to properly fund the universities, but these funds are poorly managed, embezzled and stolen. This high level of corruption is a practice common among the universities' administrators. The corrupt practices are similar to what obtains in the civil service and in the political world. The symptoms of these corrupt practices are manifested in the

dilapidated, very substandard and poorly delivered buildings and other infrastructure.

Brain-drain

Ogunode & Abubakar (2020) defined Brain drain as massive movement of professional from developing countries to developed countries to work because of a better working condition. The brain – drain problem has affected many higher institutions in the country, losing many of their professors to foreign universities. The massive movement of these lecturers is causing major lecturer gap in the Nigerian higher and in the research programme. Okebukola (2002) submitted that there is diminishing scope of mentoring junior researchers by seasoned and senior researchers due to brain drain. Oni (2000) observed that many experienced and young lecturers are fleeing from the frustration of university life into more rewarding and more challenging sectors of the economy and even migrate to the foreign countries. We observed the result of the faculty exodus in the quality of research in the public universities today. Odetunde (2004) concluded that there was a mass exodus of many brilliant lecturers to the business world and others left Nigeria for better services. Akindutire (2004), observed that institutional deterioration and salary erosion during the past decade have prompted substantial "brain-drain" of academic staff and impeded new staff recruitment. Yusuf (2012) observed that constraints hampering the realization of research goals in the higher education sector include brain drain problem, inadequate and irregular funding, poor motivation, poor or obsolete research infrastructure and rising workload resulting from deteriorating staff/student ratio. These constraints have also led to low research productivity. Against this backdrop, this paper appraises the research scene in Nigeria's institutions of higher learning with emphasis on the university sector,

and stresses the need to fill yawning gaps in such critical areas as funding levels, capacity building, including ICT requirements, research focus or specialty and tertiary institution-industry collaboration among others, as part of strategic national research and development (R & D) planning.

Insecurity

Insecurity is a major problem affecting the administration of research programmes in the Nigerian public universities. Many research programme in the Nigerian public universities have been put to hold or stopped, especially in the universities in the Northern part of Nigeria because of the insecurity challenges leading to close of universities. Ogunode & Abubakar (2020) observed that the insecurity challenge facing the country is another challenge preventing effective administration and management of higher institutions in Nigeria. The insurgent in the Northern part of Nigeria have attacked many higher institutions disrupting their academic programme, killing students and destroying infrastructural facilities meant for teaching and learning. Insecurity in Nigeria and in the Northeast has done more damages to the educational infrastructural facilities. The insurgent has destroyed many school facilities from basic to higher education. Insecurity has contributed to poor deployment of ICT facilities and administration in the various educational institutions in the northern part of Nigeria. The insurgent kidnapped some lecturers and researchers on their way to survey an oil site in Borno state. A local media reported that lecturers were kidnapped by the Islamist militant group while on an oil exploration trip to Magumeri, in the Northeastern Borno State in July 2017, while the police officers were kidnapped in a raid on a convoy (Sources, Africa 2017). BB-[www.projecttopics](http://www.projecttopics.com) (undated)

submitted that insecurity problem is another big problem affecting the development of research programme in the Nigerian public universities. Another major challenge for research in Nigeria is insecurity. Researchers' inability to move freely within the country while carrying out research affects many researchers in Nigeria. When you couple insecurity with the unavailability of published works from academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, government agencies, and many more, one understands the magnitude of the problems facing a researcher in Nigeria (BB-[www.projecttopics](http://www.projecttopics.com)).

Corruption

Corruption is another problem that is preventing the administration and development of research in the public universities in Nigeria. Funds release by the government for the administration and development of research programme in the public universities have been mismanaged and misappropriated. Some funds are been looted by the researchers or lecturers. Ogunode & Abubakar (2020) submitted that corruption has penetrated the Nigerian higher institutions. The limited funds made available by the government for the development of programme, research and infrastructural facilities end up in private hands or are been diverted for personal use. According to Premium Times (2020) the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TET Fund) has accused lecturers across the country's public tertiary institutions of diverting research grants to build homes, purchase cars, and engage in other frivolous activities. This is coming days after an allegation of personnel budget inflation leveled against some academic and healthcare institutions including the University of Ibadan, by the Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), was made public. He said: "It is sad to note that public funds made

available to lecturers to conduct groundbreaking and demand-driven researches towards solving Nigeria's socio-economic, and even political challenges, are misappropriated by those who are expected to be above board. I mean the beneficiaries of our grants. Lamido (2013), submitted that the level of corruption in the country has assumed a threatening dimension which is also dangerous and destructive to the economy. This definitely has negative effects on education and research. Corruption has eaten so deep into the fabrics of the national life that even the education sector is not spared. Ultimately, this has affected the quality and quantity of scientific findings, up-to-date equipment and infrastructural facilities for excellent research. The removal of these constraints will bring a glorious future to Nigeria (Paul, 2015).

Poor Technological Advancement/ Poor ICT literacy

Most researchers in Nigeria have not developed with technology. Most researchers in Nigeria are only well versed with pen and paper, which is a challenge of research in the country. This is because most of the materials needed to carry out a study are now stored on a technological database. A lack of understanding of how this database works can lead to spending a lot of time surfing the internet for information without results to show for it. To combat this problem, there is a need for technological training to be inculcated into the educational curriculum to train the researcher on technological advancements.

Poor Participation of Private Sector in Research Development

Poor support from private sectors is among the major problem for poor research programme in the Nigerian higher institutions. Research programme in the Nigerian higher institutions lacks sponsors from the private business organizations that

ought to have supported the development of research in the higher institutions. Government and the organized private sectors have been identified by Charles, Ijeoma & John (2009) cited Adesomoju (2008) as the only two sources of research funding in the Nigerian Universities. Adesomoju (2008) stressed that funding from the private sector include consultancy, commissioned research and intellectual property (IP) while Donwa (2006) submitted that University research in Nigeria is funded mainly from government purse with no industry support and in a few cases funds have been obtained from foreign agencies. These foreign supports are not enjoyed by all Universities and where they are obtained, it is not a regular annual event.

Lack of Conducive Working (Research) Environment

Conducive working environment is another factor preventing effective administration and development of research programme in the Nigerian public universities. Lack of conducive working environment in many public universities in Nigeria is responsible for the poor implementation of research programme. The Nigerian public university's environment is not conducive for conducting research. There is a problem of lack of research infrastructural facilities like access to constant power supply, internet services and gas supply. Chikwe, Ogidi, Nwachukwu, (2015) submitted that the pitiable conditions under which research workers operate is another problem that militates against research development in Nigeria. Research workers are not well paid and they lack incentives on the job. Both those who live in official government quarters and those that live inside the town face with a catalogue of problems ranging from shortage of water supply, epileptic power supply, poor transportation system to family problems. All these problems serve as

potent sources of distractions to the best brains. Given these problems, the research worker in Nigeria cannot perform as well as their counterparts in the developed countries where the conditions are very conducive to research work.

WAY FORWARD FOR EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATION OF RESEARCH PROGRAMME

To address these problems, the following were recommended: adequate research funding, provision of adequate infrastructural facilities, ensure stable academic staff, fight all institutions in the universities, ensure adequate security in the universities, encourage private participation in the development of research, provision of conducive research environment and Soften of the conditions attached to research Grants.

a) Adequate Funding: The government should increase the funding of public universities in the country. This will enable the public universities to meet other pressing needs like developing the research programmes of the institutions.

b) Provision of Adequate Infrastructural Facilities: The realization of the objective of research programme depends to some extent the availability of infrastructural facilities in the various schools. Stable internet services, electricity, water supply, gas and modern laboratories, workshops, research apparatus should be ensure and provided.

c) Ensure Stable Academic Calendar: The government should direct National Universities Commission to harmonize the calendar of higher institution in the country and the government should respond to the request of various trade union groups in the various public universities spread across the country.

d) Fight Institutional Corruption: The government and the various higher institutions management team should fight all the academic corruption and institutional corruption in the public

universities across the country through the use of the anti-craft agencies.

e) Adequate Security in Public Universities: The school management team should collaborate with various security agencies in the country to ensure security in the various school environments.

f) Private Sector Involvement in Research The private sector and non-governmental organization have a lot to contribute to the development of research in the Nigerian higher institutions. The higher institutions should collaborate with industries and companies to carry out research for them. There is a need for a collaborative effort from the government, corporate organizations, and international organizations to aid researchers' work through regular training and financial assistance.

g) Provision of Conducive Working Environment: The government and the school administrators should provide conducive working environment for researchers

h) Soften the conditions attached to research Grants: The government and other international organization sponsoring researches in the Nigerian higher institutions should soften and reduce the conditions attached to research grants so that many young and old lecturers can access the grant for research purposes.

CONCLUSION

From the above, it is evident that the problems facing the administration of research programme in the Nigerian public universities are enormous and they include; inadequate research funding, unstable academic calendar/strike Actions, inadequate infrastructural facilities, brain-drain, insecurity, corruption. Others are: poor technological advancement/poor ICT literacy, poor participation of private sector in research development and lack of conducive working (research) environment as problems facing the

administration of research programme. To solve these problems, this article recommendations include: adequate research funding, provision of adequate infrastructural facilities, ensure stable academic staff, fight all institutions in the universities, ensure adequate security in the universities, encourage private participation in the development of research, provision of conducive research environment and Soften of the conditions attached to research Grants.

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