Edith Cowan University

Research Online

2012

Intent to Action: Reforming the reform in Nigeria Education

Stephen Dele Bolaji
Edith Cowan University

Intent to Action: Reforming the reform in Nigeria Education

Stephen dele **BOLAJI**

Edith Cowan University

Supervisors

A/P Jan **R**. **GRAY** **&** A/P Glenda **CAMPBELL-EVANS**

Background to the study

❖ Education in Nigeria is regarded as an instrument 'par excellence' for effective national development (NPE, 1973; 1981; 1998 & 2004, p.1).

❖ Nigeria's first nationwide "free and compulsory" universal primary schooling was introduced in the 1970s "left behind" many school attending boys and girls nationwide (Denga, 2000).

❖ The universal basic education policy launched in 1999 has more than eight million children of school-going age (6-15 years) are still not in school (NUT, 2008; UBEC, 2004).

Statement of the problem

The World Bank appraisal of the basic education reforms in Nigeria is **unsatisfactory** (World Bank report, 2008). The overall **appraisal of other international agencies also points to lack of implementation.**

The **challenge is for the country's ability to fulfill the goal of Education for All**, as espoused in the policy of universal Basic Education by 2015 (USAID Mission Report, 2009).

This study provides an **opportunity to explore the challenges confronting bureaucratic implementation process of basic education in Nigeria.**

Purpose of the study

❖ The purpose of this study is to assess the bureaucratic implementation process and its impact on access in terms of enrolment, attendance and progression of Nigerian children in the universal basic education programme.

❖ The aim is to seek to understand the efficacies of their operations and how it has impacted on the implementation of the universal basic education programme in Nigeria in the last decade.

Research Methodology

❖ Qualitative research method used for this study centered on document analysis and interview which is informed by organizational theory and Top-down theory.

❖ Semi-structured interviews were conducted with the bureaucrats who are in charge of policy implementation in two states of geo-political and Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

❖ 24 Bureaucrats were interviewed out of 30 specified in the research proposal.

Research Findings

Data analysis of this study is on-going but for the purpose of this colloquium below are some emerging issues:

❖ The study has revealed that Government intervention with the introduction UBE Policy was timely for a country that was gradually coming out of the shackles of authoritarianism and rapacious military regimes that have ruled the country for most of the intervening four decades without any impact on educational policy or programmes.

❖ The has shown that the progress in implementation of UBE differs according to states and regions.

Research Findings: Cont.

❖ The study has provided the essential knowledge in understanding the bureaucratic operations of policy implementation.

  ❖ The study has revealed that politics and political interference has been major impediment to achieving the objectives of UBE in Nigeria.

❖ The study has ascertained that the level implementation of UBE States is not commensurate with the intervention fund provided by Federal government UBEC

Contribution to Knowledge

This study will contribute to much needed understanding why periodic assessment or evaluation is for public policy if the end goal is for public trust or societal driven.

Just to say

Thank You for listening and God Bless