

**ENHANCING THE STANDARD OF EDUCATION THROUGH EFFECTIVE
SUPERVISION OF BASIC EDUCATION SCHOOLS IN NIGERIA
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ABSTRACT

Since the olden days, education has been described as a means of developing the society. Secondary education has since then, been of immense value to mankind. Many school certificate holders climbed to the peak of their chosen careers with only their school certificates. It prepared the youths fully for future challenges. However, basic education schools have started to decline in quality; it does not have the value it had before. The society now experience many problems arising from dwindling standards. School leavers are unable to defend the certificates they are holding. Hence, this paper examine how supervision could be used to improve the quality of education. It explores the possibility of developing a better education system in Nigeria through functional and effective supervision, of basic education schools in Nigeria.

INTRODUCTION

The Universal Basic Education (UBE) programme was introduced in 1999 by the Federal Government of Nigeria as a reform programme aimed at providing greater access to, and ensuring quality of basic education throughout Nigeria. The federal Government in Nigeria established the UBE commission in 2004 (UBEC) with an act of the National Assembly, known as “the compulsory, free, Universal Basic Education for all children of primary and junior secondary school age in the Federal Republic of Nigeria”. It also stipulates penalties for parents who fail to comply with its provisions.

THE SCOPE OF THE UBE PRORAMME

The UBE programme covers the following areas:

- i- Early childhood care development and education (ECCDE).
- ii- Six years of primary education.
- iii- Three years of junior secondary education [total 9 years].

THE AIMS OF THE UBE PROGRAMME

The following are the main aims of the UBE programme:-

- a) Ensuring an uninterrupted access to 9- year formal education by providing free, compulsory UBE for every child of school age.
- b) Reducing school dropouts and improving relevance, quality and efficiency.
- c) Acquisition of literacy, numeracy, life skills and values for lifelong education and useful living.

**SUPERVISION AS A MEANS OF IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF
EDUCATION IN BASIC EDUCATION**

For the actualization of the objectives set for the establishment of school education system in the country, the Federal Government has authorized the Federal, state and

local education authorities to set up inspectorate units to monitor what goes on in the system. These are some activities and services of the school principal, the vice principal, heads of departments, head of schools and class teachers. The supervisory work in school must involve all stakeholders in the school system so as to help to raise the quality of education. Working together in school system so as to help to raise the quality of education working together in schools will assist in developing in the students the right attitude to their studies.

In order to improve the quality of school education, both external and internal supervisors must try to facilitate the implementation of various learning programmes aimed at improving the students' learning situations. Another area worth mentioning is that the school head should try to delegate some supervisory roles to others in the school teachers or group of teachers should be put in charge of time table planning, evaluating students' attitudes and dressing habits, and so on.

SOME PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH SUPERVISION IN BASIC EDUCATION SCHOOLS

Many problems facing schools today are traceable to ineffective supervision. Such problems include, lateness on the part of both the learners and the teachers, failure rate, indiscipline among the teachers and learners, e.t.c. In spite of many efforts made in the past to eradicate the problems of supervision in the country, very little success is achieved. In other words while supervision is recognized as a crucial aspect of organized education, it has received less attention than it deserves. Many have failed to realize that supervision is a cooperative problem solving process, rather than an aversive inspection for staff deficiencies.

Other problems associated with supervision in our secondary schools include, lack of time for instructional supervision, leaving the task of supervision in the hands of inexperienced officers and teachers. Others are lack of instructional materials, inability to improvise materials, financial constraints, poor communication system and lack of co-operation between the school heads and the teachers.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVED SUPERVISION IN SECONDARY EDUCATION

It is very necessary that if high standards and good quality of instructions are to be entrenched into our basic education school system, all the stake holders in this sector would play more active supervisory roles. For instance, the school principal should constantly organize seminars for the teachers. Other supervisors from various ministries of education should exhibit the right type of attitude in their duties.

Furthermore, supervisors and others who perform supervisory functions should devote more time to supervision in our secondary schools.

Also there should be organization and development of more supervision and academic programmes in the school. The more adequate the programmes the more adequate the level of attainment of the instructional goals and quality of education.

Such programmes include introduction of new courses, variations in subject content, use of audio visual devices, computer application, ICT techniques, e.t.c.

There is a dire need for all to pay greater attention to supervisory work and evaluation of instructional programme. There must be cooperative work, exchange of ideas, so as to improve teaching and learning situation.

CONCLUSION

Supervision of educational instructions in basic education schools is very paramount in improving the quality of education in Nigeria. If there is thorough supervision in schools, the academic achievement of students will be very high thereby guaranteeing the quality of education to that of international standard.

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