



Adequate Funding Panacea to Guidance and Counseling Programme Implementation Problems in Nigerian Schools

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Abstract: Funding is critical for the implementation of Guidance and Counseling Programme in Nigerian Schools. Adequate funding is the means to the realization of the objectives of Guidance and Counseling Programme in the Schools. This paper among other things looked at the concept of Guidance and Counseling Programme, adequate funding and benefits of adequately funding of Guidance and Counseling Programme in Nigerian Schools. The paper is a position that depends on secondary data to establish its facts. The secondary data were collected from government documents, print resources and online publication. Inclusion and exclusion criteria were used to narrow the literature to the theme of the study. The paper concluded that adequate funding of Guidance and Counseling Programme in Nigerian Schools will lead to employment of adequate professional counselors. Provision of adequate infrastructure facilities. Provision of Guidance and Counseling of instructional resources and effective training and retraining programme of Guidance and Counseling teacher. Based on this findings, the paper recommends that the government should increase the budgetary allocation for Guidance and Counseling Programme and ensure guidance and Counseling programme are effectively implemented in Nigerian schools.

Keywords: Adequate, Funds, Guidance and Counseling, Schools.



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Introduction

Inadequate funding is a major problem hindering effective service delivering of Guidance and Counseling services in Nigerian public primary schools. The funding allocated for the administration of Guidance and counselling services in Nigerian public primary schools is not adequate (Ogunode, & David 2020). Guiding and Counseling services drives it funding from the primary school annual budget which have been described by Ogunode (2020), as inadequate to successfully implement school programmes.

Inadequate funding is a major problem facing the administration of Guidance and Counselling programme in many public higher institutions in Nigeria. The funds allocated for the implementation of the Guiding & Counseling programme in the various higher institutions are inadequate. Guidance and counseling programme departments drives their allocation from the funds allocated to the various higher institutions in the country (Ogunode & Obioma, 2022).

Ugwuoke (2020), observed that Guidance and counselling is not well funded today, the education enterprise has become a costly venture. Enough funds are not allocated to each school to run its various services. Where funds are available, very little is earmarked for counselling purposes. It seems the various levels of government (Federal, state and Local) do not want to stretch their budgets with extra demands from emerging unit such as guidance and counselling, yet it is known that effective counselling demands adequate funding to purchase items such as psychological tests, journals and various publications, play gadgets, cardboards and various felt pens as well as money to organize activities such as Orientation, Excursions, career clubs and Career Day/week and furnishing a counsellor's office.

The lack of adequate funds is one of the major factors affecting the effectiveness of guidance and counselling programme in Nigeria. Counselling Association of Nigeria (CASSON) should enforce standard for how the office of a school counsellor should look like. As an agent of curriculum implementation, should inform the federal government of the needs of school counsellors. Counsellors in some school are not recognized as professionals because of lack of adequate facilities. Some headmaster/headmistress do not provide office accommodation for counsellors that could be considered suitable for use as counselling office where counselling could be carried out. Many counsellors are just given any available space to use as counselling office. Many are not provided with the facilities and materials required to practice effectively (Adebukola, 2015).

Counselling programmes in schools are not properly funded (Okere 2005). Mushaandja *et al* (2013) maintained that lack funds, office space and time were key challenges in Guidance and Counselling programme. Owino and Odero (2014) noted counseling programme was facing financial constrain.

Scholars and educators have underscored the importance of adequate funding for guidance and counselling programmes (Songok, Yungugnu & Mulinge, 2013). The programmes need adequate funding as this enables them to put up infrastructure and purchase the required facilities. Kafwa (2005) pointed out that a counsellor who has adequate and relevant materials and facilities tend to be more confident, effective and productive. It is based on this that this paper seeks to discuss the important of adequately funding Guidance and Counseling Programme in Nigerian schools.

Theoretical Framework

This **paper is anchored on role theory that was developed by** by Ralf Dahrendorf, Robert K Merton and Gorge Herbert Mead in 1956. The theory' principle hinged social roles in the society. A social role refers to the behaviours and responsibilities expected of individuals in society. In terms of gender, social roles prescribe certain behaviours to men and women. Role theory is the theory that an individual's behaviour is the performance of roles that are organized into categories defined by society. Individuals aim to meet these roles, which encompass certain expectations, responsibilities, and behaviours (S.M 2022).

The implication of this theory on this paper is that the government has a role to ensure adequate funding of Guidance and Counselling programme in schools to ensure effective implementation of the programme and the realization of the objectives of the programme.

Concept of Guidance and Counseling Programme

Guidance is a process whereby an individual is helped to understand himself in all ramifications, so that he can effectively utilize his potentialities or talents (Iduwu, n.d).

Counselling is a process through which an individual who needs help is assisted a professionally prepared individual so that he can be helped to make necessary adjustment to life, and to his environment. It is a process whereby an individual is helped through a relationship with a professionally prepared person to voluntarily change his behaviour, clarify his attitudes and goals so that his problems could be solved (Iduwu, n.d). Counselling is done in two ways; individual counselling and group counselling. In individual counselling, there is a one to one relationship between the client and the counsellee. In group counselling, the counsellor is involved

with a group of counselees. In addition, counselling may be preventive and curative. The Guidance/Counsellor believes in the individuality of people. To him every individual is a unique special person, who is capable of developing his potentials and capabilities to the fullest, if properly guided (Iduwu, n.d).

Guidance and counselling is a service that all human beings need at one point of their life. There is no human being that has never got a problem at one point or another. Once a problem arises, one seeks solutions, suggestions or even other people's opinions about the problem (Akpan (2010). Guidance and counselling services Guidance and counselling as the process of helping individuals discover and develop their educational, vocational and psychological potentialities and thereby to achieve an optional level of personal happiness and social usefulness (Adebukola (2015). Ogunboyede, Dada and Oyewumi (2013), opined that, guidance comprises of the procedure and processes organized in other to achieve certain education and personal goals. Guidance and counselling as an educational service that seeks to provide the school child opportunity to obtain holistic educational development that prepares him/her for functional life.

Guidance and Counselling is specialized field of training designed to help people to be properly aware of themselves and be fulfilled in life. This definition makes it clear that in Guidance and Counselling the clients, who visit the counselor go with the mind of being helped to resolve their personal problems which could be educational, vocational and personal Social (Olorungbemi 2013). Guidance and Counselling as a formal and systematic process of organized services offered in the school system to help an individual know and develop his potentials to the fullest, thereby consciously acquiring proper self-knowledge, understanding of self and situation and skills for appraisal of self in situational relation, for appropriate decision and action in education, the world of work and the society (Nwachuku 2009:12).

John (2020), observed that Guidance and counselling programmers are expected to supplement school instructional and administrative input into students, develop proper attitude to themselves, values, interests, moral beliefs and disciplines; also helps to promote in students, good sense of awareness, ability to acquire a good knowledge of the world of work, possibility of continuing education and ability to make realistic decision and promote human effectiveness. It is also expected to help in school administration, in creating a close and long lasting relationship between heads of schools, teachers, parents, and students.

Concept of Adequate Funding

Funds are monies for implementation of programme in institutions. Funds are financial resources meant for the administration and management of an organization. Funds are monies use to implement educational services. Funds are very important in the administration of educational institutions (Ogunode & Musa, 2021). Funding for education remains one of the important resources that are needed to manage the school system. All levels of education; primary, secondary and tertiary require a sufficient level of funding to improve the standard of education provided in the country. When funding is not provided in the right quantity and at the right time, it affects the education sector in so many ways (Nwafor, Uchendu, & Akani, 2015). The availability of funds plays a significant role in determining the provision of quality education at all levels. The number of funds made available during budgeting will go a long way in improving the quality of education provided. Adequate funding will be important in the provision of quality basic education (Nwafor, et al 2015). Adequate funding connote sufficient funds availability for implementation of educational programme. Adequate funding refers to the provision of budgetary allocation that is enough to develop the educational institutions. Adequate funding is any level of funds capable of meeting the needs of the institutions in term of implementation of programme (Onorge, 2023; Owobamigbe, Ohunene, & Ogunode 2021).

Ogunode, Ukozor, and Ayoko, (2023) and Ayuba, (2015) posited that adequate funding is critical for the development of any public institution. Adequate funding is the key to the achievement of the institution's goals. Adequate funding is the life wire of any organization. No meaningful

impact institutions can attain without adequate funding. Studies have shown that public institutions exceed their mandate when they are adequately funded by the government. Adequate fund refers to sufficient funds available for execution of a project or programmes. Adequate fund is the provision of an excess money for the implementation of programmes. Adequate fund is the financial allocation above a minimum bench mark for implementation of a programme. Projects or programme are adequately funded when financial provision for the projects or programme is above the budget or equal to the planned budget. Adequate Funding is the act or process of continuous providing sufficient capital for the implementation of the project or programme (Ogunode, & Mohammed, 2023).

Method

This paper is a review paper that depends on secondary data. Systematic literature review-based report was adopted in the paper. Many data were collected and reviewed from various online sources and print sources. The researcher visited different online sites to collect the previous literature and analyze them based on recommendations and important of funding in the implementation of Guidance and Counseling Programme in Nigeria. The previous findings and recommendations were critically analyzed and presented in different themes.

Inclusion and exclusion criteria

This paper only considered literatures from 2013 to 2024 for inclusion and excluded irrelevant research article, information from edited books, abstracts and monographs.

Table: 1. Benefits of Adequately Funding Guidance and Counseling Programme in Schools

S/N	Names	Recommendations
1	Sunday, (2023). Guidance and Counseling in Nigerian Schools. Lagos.	Funding is vital to the realization of the objectives of Guidance and Counseling programme in schools. Adequate funding ensure smooth implementation of guidance and Counseling Curriculum in schools.
2	Ogunode & Obioma, (2021) Administration of Guidance and Counselling Programme in Nigerian Higher Institutions: Problems and Solutions. <i>International Journal on Integrated Education</i> , 4(10), 1-10	The government should increase the funding of higher institutions in the country. This will enable higher institutions administrators to allocate adequate funds for various programme administration in the various faculties and departments. More funds should be allocated for the administration of Guidance and Counselling Programme and research programme
3	Ogunode, & David (2020) Guidance & Counseling Services in Nigerian Public Primary Schools: Challenges and the Way forward. <i>Central Asian Journal of Innovations On Tourism Management And Finance</i> . 02 (08),29-37.	The government should increase the funding of education and more allocation should be given for the administration of guidance and counseling programme at the primary school level.
4	Suleiman, Olanrewaju, & Suleiman, (2019). Improving Guidance and Counseling Services For Effective Service Delivery In Nigerian Secondary Schools: Implications For Stakeholders In Education. <i>Journal of Multicultural Studies in Guidance and Counseling</i> 3,(1), 75-89	Principals and other management officers in the school should make budgetary allocation for the smooth running of guidance programmes in schools.
5	Adebukola, (2015). Challenges Militating	There should be adequate fund allocated

	Against Guidance and Counselling Services in Nigerian Primary Schools: the Way Forward. <i>Journal of Qualitative Education, Volume 11 No.</i>	from the three tiers of government and school management, to carry out some programmes like career day, career weeks, vocational training and seminar for the counsellors in order to improve on their profession and perform excellently on their job.
6	Bello, (2015). Assessment of Challenges facing implementation of Guidance and Counselling Services in Nigerian Schools. <i>Journal of Education, 1(11), 23-30.</i>	Governments should increase the funding of Guidance and Counselling Programme to enable school administrators employ adequate counselors and provide adequate instructional resources.
7	Musa, (2021). Deployment of Information Communication Technologies for the implementation of Guidance and Counseling Programme in public secondary Schools, Niger State, Nigeria.	Government should provide adequate funding for the procurement of information communication technologies (ICT) to support implementation of Guidance and Counseling programme in Nigerian Schools.
8	Ohunene, Audu, & Ogunode (2022). Challenges Facing Counsellors in Nigerian Public Primary Schools and Way Forward. <i>Middle European Scientific Bulletin (17)302-308</i>	Funding is key for the implementation of guidance and counseling services in educational institutions. Adequate funding of guidance and counseling services in the educational institutions is the only means to the realization of guidance and counseling services objective and programme. Funds are needed for the procurement of human and materials resources for the smooth implementation of guidance and counseling services in schools. The government should increase the funding of guidance and counseling programme in the school level.
9	Femi (2018). Impact of supervision on Guidance and Counseling Programme in Basic Schools in Osun State, Nigeria.	Funding is critical to supervision of guidance and Counseling programme in schools. Funding will guarantee effective supervision of the guidance and Counseling programme and ensure quality delivery in the programme.
10	Ojo, (2015). Impact of capacity building on Counselors' job performance in secondary schools, Ondo State, Nigeria. <i>Journal of Art Education, 12(2), 21-30.</i>	Funding is vital in the implementation of capacity building programme for Counsellors in schools. Government should hereby allocate more funds to the teaching and learning of Guidance and Counselling programme and attentions should be given to capacity building of Counselors.

Discussion

There are many benefits of adequately funding Guidance and Counseling Programme in the schools in Nigeria. This benefits of adequately funding of Guidance and Counselors programme in schools includes; employment of professional counselors, provision of adequate infrastructure facilities, provision of adequate Guidance and Counseling of instructional resources and effective training and retraining programme of Guidance and Counseling teacher.

Employment of adequate professional counselors

The problem of shortage of professionals counsellors in the Nigerian schools as mentioned by Ugochuche (2013); Akinade (2012) and Suleiman, Olanrenwaju, & Suleiman, (2019) can be solved via adequate provision of budget for the implementation of Guidance and Counseling programmes in the schools. Professional Counsellors are trained groups of people that provides counseling services in schools. Counselors are implementers of the guidance and counseling curriculum in the schools. The roles of Counsellors in the implementation of guidance and Counselling cannot be underestimated. So, Adequate funding of administration of Guidance and Counseling administration programme will help to employ more Counsellors and administrative staff into the department for effective implementation of the programme. Adequate funding will support capacity building of Counsellors and aid placement of adequate and qualified Counselors in the schools. Nwafor, et al (2015) stated that the availability of funds is very crucial in the employment of qualified personnel in educational institutions. Studies have shown that the funding level is a factor that is used to attract quality personnel.

Provision of adequate infrastructure facilities.

School Infrastructural facilities refer to social capital within the school environment. They include school buildings/complexes such as classrooms, tables, exam hall, chairs, auditoria, desks, staff offices, seminar/conference/board rooms, laboratories, workshops, studios, farms, gymnasia, central libraries, specialized/professional libraries, faculty libraries, departmental libraries, etc., Institute/centers' specialized facilities e.g (Ogunode & Agwor 2021).. ICT infrastructure, special laboratories, conference facilities, etc., and Boards e.g. interactive, magnetic, screen and chalk, etc., ICT that is computer laboratories and services, network connectivity, multi-media system, public address system, slide, and video projectors, and Ergonomics furnishing in laboratories, libraries, and lecture rooms/ theaters, moot courts, and studios, etc. They went further and listed the importance of infrastructural facilities in educational institutions include: it aids effective delivery of administrative functions in schools; it makes the delivery of services fast and reliable; it enables teachers to deliver lessons fast; infrastructural facilities provide a conducive working environment for both teachers and students; infrastructural facilities enable learners to learn at ease and learn well; infrastructural facilities enable the teachers to teach well, prepare their lessons, and deliver them online (ICT). The importance of school infrastructural facilities in the realization of educational goals cannot be underestimated. School facilities aid the delivery of the teaching and learning process in the schools (Ogunode & Agwor 2021). Adequate funding of Guidance and Counseling programme in Nigerian schools will guarantee the provision of adequate funding. Funding is very important in the provision of facilities in schools.

Provision of Guidance and Counseling of instructional resources

Lack of Guidance and Counseling instructional resources is another problem preventing effective Guidance and Counseling services in many public primary schools in Nigeria. Many Guidance and Counseling teachers are not provided with working materials like records books, pens, charts, ICT facilities to discharge their responsibilities. The inability of the school head to provide the Guidance and Counseling teachers with these resources is affecting the effective delivering of guidance and counseling services in public primary schools (Ogunode, & David 2020). This problem can be solved through adequate funding of Guidance and Counseling programme in schools according (Yusuf, 2018). Adequate funding of education will guarantee the provision of adequate instructional materials in all the schools in Nigeria (Ogunode & Owobamigbe, 2021). Adequate funding of education in Nigeria will help to address the challenges of shortage of instructional materials in school according to Ogunode, Ohibime, Nasir, & Gregory, (2021). Sufficient fund in the administration of Guidance and Counseling Programme is key to facilities development and not having enough funds can have a serious impact on the development of facilities in schools and implementation of schools programme. Availability of adequate funds will help to ensure adequate provision of instructional and learning materials for both teachers and students in schools across the country. Usman, (2020) and Odediran, (2014) recommended that

the federal, states and local government in Nigeria should increase the funding of Guidance and Counseling programme in schools in Nigeria. This will help to provide all the instructional resources and human resources needed for the implementation of the programme at the schools.

Effective training and retraining programme of Guidance and Counseling teacher.

The problem of ineffective training and retraining programme of Counsellors will be solved with adequate provision of financial resources for the execution of Guidance and Counseling programmes in Schools. Staff training is a program that is designed to equip employees with the knowledge and skills that they need to perform their jobs and improve their performance. It often occurs when new staff join an organization (also known as the onboarding process) but can also be part of a commitment to ongoing training and development that many organizations offer their employees. Staff training is a programme implemented by a manager or person of authority to provide specific staff members with the necessary skills and knowledge for their current role. It's often compulsory for some level of training to be offered to new members of staff as you prepare them for their role (Ogunode, Kasimu & Sambo, 2023). The objectives of training includes; to equip Counselors counseling skills, communicative skills, and problem solving skills. Generally, training is meant to improve Counselor professional skills and knowledge. Training enables Counselor to gain the knowledge required to perform their duties in schools while contributing to schools development. These training programs are designed to help Counselors learn different skill sets to perform their daily tasks efficiently, improve overall performance, develop efficiency in their job, and avoid violations of laws and regulations. Adequate funding of Guidance and Counseling programme in schools will ensure effective capacity building for Counsellors across Nigerians schools.

Findings

The paper revealed that adequate funding of Guidance and Counseling Programme in Nigerian Schools will lead to employment of adequate professional counselors. Provision of adequate infrastructure facilities. Provision of Guidance and Counseling of instructional resources and effective training and retraining programme of Guidance and Counseling teacher.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Funding is critical for the implementation of Guidance and Counseling Programme in Nigerian Schools. Adequate funding is the means to the realization of the objectives of Guidance and Counseling Programm in the Schools.

The paper established that adequate funding of Guidance and Counseling Programme in Nigerian Schools will lead to employment of adequate professional counselors. Provision of adequate infrastructure facilities. Provision of Guidance and Counseling of instructional resources and effective training and retraining programme of Guidance and Counseling teacher.

Based on this findings, the paper recommends that the government should increase the budgetary allocation for Guidance and Counseling Programme and ensure guidance and Counseling programme are effectively implemented in Nigerian schools.

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