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PROMOTING AND SUSTAINING EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH FOR SELF RELIANCE

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ABSTRACT

The study investigated the problems militating against educational researcher by Lecturers in the University of Uyo. It was a survey study. Three research questions were formulated for the study. Sample random sampling technique was used to select one hundred and five (105) Lecturers from the Faculties of Agriculture and education respectively. Data collection was done with Research output Questionnaire (ROQ) duly validated by 4 lecturers; 2 from each faculties used for the study with a reliability level of 0.75. The findings revealed that funding, human resources and community initiative affect the quality and quantity of research output. It was recommended that collaboration and adequate funding from the government, university and organized private agencies should be considered as immediate intervention for a robust and meaningful educational research in Nigeria Universities.

Key words; *collaboration, intervention, dissemination, mandate and financier outdated*

INTRODUCTION

Educational research is a service activity which addresses human problems as it applies to production, information dissemination and capacity building. It has also been recognized as an instrument per excellence for development of human resources made to function towards the achievement of various organizational goals and objectives (Akanke, 2004). In the words of Onwu (2004), relevant research is about knowledge, economy, and development of any human capacity building. It is a necessary tool for the advancement of any arts and cultural development. The government still remains the principal financier of education in Nigeria which has resulted in low funding due to the global economic depression. A study of the research trend in Nigeria University revealed that the volume of research output was declining and the few available ones were not oriented towards solving societal needs and problems. The low research output reflects the low funding accorded to research and development by Government and Nigerian University (Harnet, 2000; Okebukola, 2002). The decline on quality and quantity of educational research also affect the quality of Lectures. Olukoja (2004) stated that most articles sent overseas were rejected on the ground of poor quality; outdated information and repetition of old work. According to Omwu (2004), a university's highest mission is to serve mankind and as such educational research should be focused, well documented, contribute to knowledge and create new products for development and self reliance. Self reliance involves optimal utilization of local resources with well co-coordinated development of local talents in production for sustainable development. A good university-community relationship is important. According to Bakos (2005), universities need to study the community, collect some relevant data on it and use them for planning the educational programme. Although the universities have the mandate to carry out research for sustainable development, the volume of research in declining everyday in the universities due to some militating factors.

PROBLEMS

The level of educational research in Nigeria is yet to assume its proper position in the Scheme of emergent global events. The seeming failure according to Ivowi (1996) can be traced to the fact that government in the country appear not to have fully realized the invaluable important of research findings to planning and development. The contribution of researchers in Nigerian universities has declined tremendously and this has a negative effect on the national development process. In some cases, research is not relevance and virtually adds to nothing in terms of solving problems or advancing its progression. The 'publish or perish' syndromes in higher institutions have resulted in very poorly focused and lack of community-based research that can enhance capacity building for self reliance, World Bank (2002). In a study of labour market for university graduates, found that the graduates were poorly trained with shortcomings on oral, written communications and applied technical skills. Educational research has its national goals and aspirations which should meet societal needs. The vision and mission of educational research is anchored on the vision 2020 economic reform agenda. To achieve this, educational research should be focused on the acquisition of new knowledge for local relevance and international competitiveness. The question now is: 'How are universities and other relevant research institutions prepared to take initiatives in the challenges using educational research for the attainment of societal needs and quality life of the Nigerian populace?'

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PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The Study was designed to achieve the following:

1. To assess the extent to which research in the universities can affect educational research.
2. To examine the extent to which resources affect educational research in Nigeria.
3. To assess the extent to which community initiatives will enhance educational research.

RESEARCH QUESTION

1. What is the effect of funding on the quality and volume of educational research?
2. How do human resources affect educational research in Nigeria?
3. To what extent will community initiatives enhance educational research?

METHODOLOGY

The study was a survey design. The sample was obtained using random sampling technique. The sample provides 105 Lecturers from the Faculties of Agriculture (50) and Education (55) in the University of Uyo, Uyo.

INSTRUMENT FOR DATA COLLECTION

The instrument used was a 25-items questionnaire for Lecturers tagged Research Output Questionnaire for Lecturers (ROQ). This questionnaire called for information on funding, human resources development and community initiatives. Data collected were analyzed in keeping with the three research question using mean and valuing order. Any item response with a mean of 3.002 above was interpreted as a favorable response while those below 3.00 were a negative factor.

VALIDATION OF INSTRUMENT

The face and content validity of the instrument was established by 4 Lecturers from the Faculties of Agriculture and Educational respectively for necessary corrections and restructuring of the items.

RELIABILITY OF THE INSTRUMENT

The instrument was subjected to a test-retest reliability technique. It was administered to 30 Lecturers who were from the population but not used in the study. These test scores were subjected to the Pearson's Product Moment Correlation analysis which gave a reliability coefficient of 0.75.

TABLE 1: Mean ratings of Funding of Research in the University

S/N	FINDING OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH	SA 5	A 4	D 3	SD 2	UD 1	X
1	Education is adequately funded by Nigerian Government.	8	7	21	68	*1	2.5*
2	Better funding promotes educational research	53	20	16	10	6	3.3
3	Government always gives grant/funds for research in universities	21	15	11	56	-	2.9*
4	University always gives grant/ funds for development	6	10	18	70	1	2.5*
5	There is intervention in research fund when needs arises.	4	9	13	79	-	2.4*
6	Research in the university is mostly self sponsored.	91	7	4	3	-	4.7
7	Departments sometimes support relevant research work	13	17	21	52	2	2.8*
8	Lack of adequate funding has killed interest in research	60	16	2	8	19	2.9
9	Organized private agencies sometimes support educational research.	3	12	29	61	-	2.6

TABLE 2: Mean rating of Human Resources and Educational Research in the University

S/N	HUMAN RESOURCE AND EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH	Responses					Mean
		SA 5	A 4	D 3	SD 2	UD 1	— X
1	Highly qualified Lecturers should carry out research in the university.	66	31	6	2	-	4.5
2	Collaboration with other universities promote capacity building in research.	71	21	8	4	1	4.5
3	Tie between research and promotion in the university facilities capacity building	15	17	20	50	-	2.9*
4	Young researchers lack research techniques	63	21	14	7	-	4.3
5	Seminars are always conducted for writing innovative research	42	8	4	938	1	3.1*
6	Administrative and overloaded teaching time table hinder quantity and quality research output in the university.	36	51	9	11	-	4.1
7	Seasoned researchers mentor young ones for increased productivity.	47	17	8	33	-	3.7
8	Collaboration among Lecturers promote quality research	57	24	19	5	-	4.2

TABLE 3: Mean ratings for Community Initiative and Educational Research in the University

S/N	Community Initiative and Educational Research	SA	A	D	SD	UD	Mean/ Remark
1.	Educational research promotes self reliance through community-based projects.	77	16	7	5	-	4.6
2	Good community relations promote quality and quantity research output	69	19	9	8	-	4.4
3	Non- utilization of community resources affect quality from research	52	25	15	13	-	4.1
4	Relevant information comes from community	70	23	10	1	1	4.5
5	Research provides synergistic relationship between industries and communities	32	24	15	33	1	3.5
6	Research promotes integration of indigenous technology for community development.	65	18	13	7	1	4.4
7	There is adequate facility for effective research to meet community needs	9	11	28	55	2	2.7
8	Collaboration between communities and educational researches promote quality of life	61	20	9	9	1	4.2

Accepted negative factors which do not promote educational research

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DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

1. **Funding of educational research in university:** The result of the study on funding of research in the university presented in Table 1 indicates poor funding of educational research. This finding is in line with that of Okebukola (2002) who in his study found that Nigerian tertiary institutions have difficulty in accessing research funds and this poor funding kills interest in research output. The situation calls for intervention to reverse the trend for sustainable development and self reliance
2. **Human Resources and Educational Research in the University;** The result from the study showed that qualified lecturers and collaboration with other universities positively affect research output. This corroborates Olukoja (2004) and Onwu (2004) who stated that university's highest mission is to serve mankind and as such educational research should be focused, well documented and contribute to knowledge and create new products for development and self reliance
3. **Community Initiatives:** The result shown that community initiatives promote educational research, This is an agreement with Bakos (2005) that universities need to study the community, collect some relevant data and use them for planning educational programmed.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In realization of the above facts, educational research can be enhanced for self reliance by;

- Exhibiting innovative research finding to members of the public
- Funding of research by the university authority.
- Payment of research grants regularly to university by Federal Government
- Linking educational research with industries for networking and collaboration.
- Select or patent research output with industries for further development and commercialization.
- Seek for partnership especially with state Government to research on emergent problems in society.
- Provide adequate facilities for meaningful research work.
- Establish a strong university-community relationship.

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