



Chapter Seven - Challenges and Solutions of Quality Assurance in Colleges of Education in Nigeria

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Quality assurance in education has become an increasingly important topic in Nigeria due to the need to improve the standard of education in the country. Chapter Seven discusses the challenges and ways to improve the quality of education in the Colleges of Education in Nigeria. Al-amin investigated that the challenges of quality assurance in the Colleges of Education in Nigeria include inadequate funding, poor infrastructure, inadequate staffing, lack of standardization, and inadequate monitoring and evaluation. He further proffers solutions to these challenges which include adequate funding, provision of infrastructure, employment of qualified staff, standardization of curricula, and effective monitoring and evaluation.

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Chapter Seven

Challenges and Solutions of Quality Assurance in Colleges of Education in Nigeria

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Abstract

Quality assurance in education has become an increasingly important topic in Nigeria due to the need to improve the standard of education in the country. *Chapter Seven* discusses the challenges and ways to improve the quality of education in the Colleges of Education in Nigeria. Al-amin investigated that the challenges of quality assurance in the Colleges of Education in Nigeria include inadequate funding, poor infrastructure, inadequate staffing, lack of standardization, and inadequate monitoring and evaluation. He further proffers solutions to these challenges which include adequate funding, provision of infrastructure, employment of qualified staff, standardization of curricula, and effective monitoring and evaluation.



Introduction

Education is considered the fundamental pillar of any progress and researchers have since given credence to this and noted that education is critical to the construction of a knowledgeable economy by a society.¹ Adejo explained, in clear terms, that the key factor identified with this premise of understanding for anticipating meaningful future development and productivity of any modern society is the number of intellectuals, thinkers, visionaries and professionals available to that society.² Therefore, education is the most powerful instrument for progress and social change. No country can boast of development either scientifically or technologically without quality education. The value of education has been well-reported by different educationists. Education is a tool for societal integration. It is through this that an individual can achieve self-realization, develop national consciousness, promote unity and strive for social, political, scientific, cultural and technological progress. He also added that education can heal, kill, build up or tear apart, lift or deprive and that it is the aggregate of all the processes through which a person develops abilities, skills and positive (sometimes negative) values. It is to be noted with dismay that Nigeria's education leaves much to be desired. There is a growing concern by critical stakeholders for the quality of education products. The graduates are reported not to be employable due to the lack of quality education particularly requisite employable skills. The success and failure of any educational system solely depend on the quality and devotion of teachers. His findings also revealed that the quality of staff in schools determines the performance of students. Teacher education is the education given to those who aspire to become teachers to equip them for the effective performance of their duties after graduation.³ Since no education system may rise above the quality of its teacher education shall continue to be given major in all planning and development.

Therefore, quality education is the major instrument of instilling productivity in the minds of students and it also remains a great instrument for the development of any country as it prepares citizens for the future and enables them to positively contribute to the growth of the society.⁴ Quality can only be guaranteed through Quality assurance. Quality assurance in education is a process that ensures that education meets the required standard. In Nigeria, quality assurance in education has become a critical issue due to the need to improve the standard of education in

¹ Mohammed 2009, 71.

² Adejo in Mohammed 2009, 72.

³ National Policy on Education 2014, 30.

⁴ Bala 2021, 60.



the country. The research highlights the role of regulatory bodies such as the National Universities Commission (NUC) and the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) in ensuring quality assurance in education. The study found that the challenges of quality assurance in the Colleges of Education in Nigeria include inadequate funding, poor infrastructure, inadequate staffing, lack of standardization, and inadequate monitoring and evaluation. The study also revealed that the solutions to these challenges include adequate funding, provision of infrastructure, employment of qualified staff, standardization of curricula, and effective monitoring and evaluation. Finally, the research also provides recommendations for improving the system.

Concept of Quality Assurance in Education

Quality assurance in education is a process that ensures that education meets the required standard. Quality assurance in education aims to ensure that students receive high-quality education that prepares them for the workforce and meets the needs of society. It involves the development, implementation, and monitoring of standards, policies, and procedures that ensure that education meets the desired level. Quality is a key issue in the provision of higher education. He further opines that the competence of manpower, impact of research, and tenacity of community service are certain factors of the quality measures of a given institution.

Quality education

According to Bala, quality education is pedagogically and developmentally sound and educates the student in becoming an active and productive member of society. Quality education therefore is not measured purely by a mere test score or by how many words per minute a 5-year-old can read. This is because the aim of education, as the social machine, has to be effective in disseminating expertise and stimulating the thinking spirit via all sense of honesty.⁵ Quality education gives the younger generation the ability to create jobs for themselves and provide for others. Education is a central cohesive source of support and stability in the development of countries. Developing countries should recognize the importance of education and must focus on the development of high-value educational systems because a sound education system works effectively for the sustainable development of the economy as well as society. A stable economy of a country is closely related to quality education. The educated people of a country have more ability to become

⁵ Bala 2021, 60.



entrepreneurs, scientists, doctors, and engineers and it may become a deciding factor for the future economic development of any country. It provides the opportunity for students to apply their skills in creative ways and become more professional. The creativity of students provides them with opportunities to achieve their goals.⁶

Quality education, according to Oyetunde, is often measured by three broad variables which he listed as input, process, and output variables. The last variable, i.e. input which is the focus of our discussion refers to the human and material resources such as teaching and administrative personnel, physical facilities such as classrooms, libraries, and instructional materials.⁷

Regulatory Bodies in Nigeria

The National Universities Commission (NUC) and the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) are the two regulatory bodies responsible for ensuring quality assurance in education in Nigeria. The NUC is responsible for regulating and maintaining standards in all universities in Nigeria, while the NBTE regulates and maintains standards in polytechnics and colleges of education in Nigeria.

The NUC is responsible for ensuring that universities in Nigeria maintain the required standard in terms of infrastructure, curriculum, and personnel. The commission also ensures that universities in Nigeria meet the global standard of education. The NBTE, on the other hand, ensures that polytechnics and colleges of education in Nigeria maintain the required standard in terms of curriculum, infrastructure, and personnel.

Challenges Facing Quality Assurance in Education in Nigeria

Quality assurance in colleges of education in Nigeria is an ongoing challenge due to various factors such as inadequate funding, lack of qualified staff, inadequate infrastructure, and insufficient resources for teaching and learning. Some of the major challenges and possible solutions for quality assurance in colleges of education in Nigeria are discussed below:

Inadequate funding: One of the major challenges of quality assurance in colleges of education in Nigeria is inadequate funding. Most colleges of education in Nigeria

⁶ Bala 2021, 60.

⁷ Oyetunde 2006 cited in Mohammed 2009, 68.



are underfunded, which affects the quality of education and learning outcomes. The government allocates a small percentage of the national budget to education, which is not enough to meet the required standard. Inadequate funding affects the quality of education in Nigeria, as it affects the recruitment of quality personnel, the development of infrastructure, and the acquisition of modern teaching and learning materials. The solution to this challenge is for the government to increase funding for colleges of education, and for the colleges to explore alternative sources of funding such as grants, donations, and partnerships.

Adequate monitoring and evaluation: Supervision is the live wire concerned with the efficiency and effectiveness of quality assurance. Supervision and monitoring of schools as an action directed towards the improvement of the teaching and learning process.⁸ Another challenge facing quality assurance in education in Nigeria is the lack of adequate monitoring and evaluation. The regulatory bodies responsible for quality assurance in education in Nigeria do not have enough personnel to monitor and evaluate the quality of education in the country. This makes it difficult to maintain the required standard of education.

Lack of qualified staff: Another challenge is the lack of qualified staff, particularly in specialized areas such as science, technology, and vocational education. The solution to this challenge is for the government to invest in the training and professional development of teachers and lecturers, and to attract and retain qualified staff by offering competitive salaries and benefits.

Inadequate infrastructure: Many colleges of education in Nigeria lack adequate infrastructure such as classrooms, laboratories, libraries, and ICT facilities. The solution to this challenge is for the government to invest in infrastructure development and maintenance, and for the colleges to explore partnerships with private sector organizations and international organizations.

Insufficient resources for teaching and learning: Another challenge is the insufficient resources for teaching and learning such as textbooks, teaching aids, and learning materials. The solution is for the government to provide adequate resources and for the colleges to explore innovative ways of sourcing and using resources such as open educational resources (OERs) and digital technologies.

Quality assurance frameworks: Many colleges of education in Nigeria lack robust quality assurance frameworks to ensure that the quality of education and learning

⁸ Grace 2012, 88.



outcomes are consistent and meet national and international standards. The solution to this challenge is for the government to develop and implement quality assurance frameworks, and for the colleges to establish internal quality assurance mechanisms such as quality assurance units and committees.

Recommendations

To improve quality assurance in education in Nigeria, the government should increase funding for education. Adequate funding will enable the government to recruit quality personnel, develop infrastructure, and acquire modern teaching and learning materials. Further, the regulatory bodies responsible for quality assurance in education in Nigeria should also be strengthened. This can be done by recruiting more personnel, providing them with adequate training, and equipping them with the necessary tools to carry out their duties effectively.

Quality assurance in colleges of education in Nigeria is a complex and ongoing challenge that requires a collaborative effort between the government, colleges of education, and other stakeholders. The solutions to these challenges include increased funding, attracting and retaining qualified staff, improving infrastructure and resources, and implementing robust quality assurance frameworks.

Conclusion

In conclusion, quality assurance in education is essential for the development of Nigeria. The government, regulatory bodies, and other stakeholders should work together to ensure that education meets the required standard. Adequate funding, monitoring, and evaluation are essential for improving the standard of education in Nigeria.



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About the Author



Usman Al-amin, PhD, is a lecturer in the Department of History, University of Maiduguri, Nigeria. He received his B.A. and M.A. in social and intellectual history from the University of Maiduguri. Dr. Al-amin bagged his Ph.D. from the Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures, University of Hamburg. A specialist in the documentation and history of Arabic Literature, Sufi traditions, and Islamic manuscript cultures, his main fields of research include Islamic

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