

PARENTS-TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (PTA) AND THE MANAGEMENT OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN NORTH CENTRAL ZONE OF NIGERIA

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Abstract

The paper investigated Parents Teacher Association (PTA) and the management of Secondary School Education in North Central Zone of Nigeria. The paper conceptualized Parent Teacher Association and management of secondary schools. The paper highlighted the participation of PTA in recruitment of teachers and the management of secondary schools, PTA provision of financial assistance and provision of infrastructural facilities on the development of secondary schools. The paper concluded that PTA's recruitment of teachers, provision of financial assistance, infrastructural facilities and instructional materials have significant management of secondary schools in North Central zone and recommended among others that both federal and state governments should recruit adequate and qualified teachers in all their secondary schools, provide adequate infrastructural facilities, provide financial assistance to the principals of schools for effective and efficient management of their schools to encourage and facilitate teaching and learning process in schools.

Key words: Parents teachers association, management and secondary schools.

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Introduction

The Parent Teachers Association (PTA) is one of the associations that participate strongly in educational management at all levels especially at secondary school. The PTA today, exists in almost every secondary school in Nigeria. It is an ideal association whose contributions are channeled toward the management of education. Ogbonnaya (2012) states that through such meetings, parents can learn about the classroom programmes which have been planned for or is being managed. Through such association, the teacher will as well gain valuable insight into the child's relationship with parents in the home. Parents in some communities have been known to willingly levy themselves to make subscription towards the building of classroom, dormitories, laboratories and so on.

The P.T.A has participated immensely in the management of education in North Central zone of Nigeria. One often comes across school buildings, school buses with the inscription "Donated by P.T.A". Times, without number, P.T.A requests for the transfer of some principals, teachers, finance clerk in their respective schools. Okwori (2013) opines that educational management brings about new changes as it relates to teaching and learning and most of the positive changes come as a result of the PTA involvement in the provision of infrastructural facilities like classrooms, libraries among others. Also in the recruitment of teachers, rendering of financial assistance and creating cordial relationship between schools and the host communities, PTA plays a leading role. Educational management refers to the noticeable changes of growth identified in some aspects of education in Nigeria over a given period of time Akpakwu (2012). To ensure a coordinated educational management in the country, PTA participate actively towards achieving the goals of education. The participation by PTA is through financial and moral support in conjunction with teachers in the education. There is need for constant monitoring, evaluation and appraisal by school management and PTA. The focus of this paper include among others: Recruitment of teachers, financial assistance, infrastructural facilities and provision of instructional materials.

Parent Teachers Association (PTA)

This section deals with the concepts of PTA and management of secondary schools. The concept and origin of Parent Teachers Association (PTA) and management emanated in the United States of America about a century ago and spread to other parts of the world only much later. According to Oluwole (2005), the concept of P.T.A dates back to about a century ago. It started in USA and management to other parts of the globe and years later, P.T.A which was founded in 1897 as National Congress of Mothers. It changed its name to National Congress of Parents and Teachers Association in 1908. It was not, until 1924 when the National Congress of parents and teachers included male membership. The concept of P.T.A in our educational system is a recent innovation. The association developed into full body called PTA. In 1970, government encouraged parents and teachers to take over the school. The National Parents Teachers Association of Nigeria (NAPTAN) came in full swing in 1992.

Igbudu (2012:3) is of the opinion that P.T.A was to enable the parents, teachers and the school administration cooperates intelligently in mutual understanding. Igbudu further maintained that what should be the role of P.T.A in the management and administration of education were articulated in the document to include among others; to provide a bridge between the home and the school, to maintain a relationship between the P.T.A and the board of governors and the community for projects undertaken by institution, and to give moral and material support to schools.

According to Ezeocha (2010: 47), the functions of PTA are:

- i. *To promote mutual understanding and co-operation between the schools and home*
- ii. *Provision of infrastructural and other basic school requirements.*
- iii. *Checking the activities of teachers and other staff through provision of advisory services.*
- iv. *Act as link to the government especially the government functionaries among the parents.*
- v. *Provision of funds and recruitment of teachers. Assist the government in the area of instructional and other things needed by the school.*

Management of Secondary Schools

Management is seen as a social process which is designed to ensure the co-operation, participation, intervention and involvement of people in the effective achievement of a given objective. Management involves strategy, innovation, initiating and bring about change, creative problem solving and decision making, actively seeking out alternative and opportunities, reformulating goals and priorities redeploying resources, negotiating, resolving conflicts, dynamic or active leadership, diplomacy, statesmanship and a high degree of risk taking entrepreneurship Akpakwu (2012).

The Parents Teachers Association has played an important role in the progress and management of secondary schools in North Central Zones of Nigeria. However, the extent of PTA activities and their involvement in school management and administration varies according to local circumstances and the energies of the parents, guardians and the teachers involved. Shie (2011) opines that the PTAs in schools have assisted schools in the construction and equipping of science laboratories construction of school perimeter fence, provision of electricity and pipe-borne water. PTAs therefore assist or help in the management of students' skills and the improvement of students' hygiene through the provision of these facilities. The role of PTA in enhancing qualitative education for their children is a very crucial one. Shie (2011) states that, PTA plays a very prominent role in the local employment/engagement of some of the teachers in schools. That PTA employs and paid teachers and other categories of workers. These include among others night guards, typists, labourers and library staff. In some schools, the PTA has built staff houses, sunk staff wells and bought vehicles for the use of staff and students.

Igbudu (2012) asserts that parents who are the first teachers of their children can be regarded as the primary and most effective agents of socialization who provide the first sustained social relationship and management of their children. The participation of parents in the management of secondary school education can be seen in the various roles they play. Parents of some community schools are known to have willingly levied themselves or made various contributions and subscriptions towards the building of school classrooms, dormitories, laboratories and libraries (Orhungur, 2013).

PTA Recruitment of Teachers on the Management of Secondary Schools

The PTA has contributed immensely to the recruitment of qualified teachers in various fields of studies in our schools. Oluwole (2005), asserts that recruitment is the process of searching for and attracting prospective teachers with the required abilities and attitude to apply for jobs in the schools. The PTA pays salaries and other benefits to those teachers employed. This is to complement the efforts of government and other

stakeholders in the running of secondary schools. Ogwuche (2012) states that personnel requirement always arise from newly established organizations due to death, promotion, resignation, retirement dismissals, leave of absence and creation of new positions. In Nigeria educational system and secondary schools in particular, because of what seems to be poor conditions of service for teachers, they always leave teaching for greener pastures hence the need to recruit teachers.

Oyetunde (2012) states that a teacher is a person who has undergone approved professional training in education at appropriate level capable of imparting knowledge attitudes and skills to the learners. In fact, in any educational system, the teacher is an important factor whose function may enhance or deter the realization of the system. The success or failure of such a system therefore, to a large extent will depend on the teachers' effectiveness. The quality of his training in turn determines his effectiveness, efficiency and to some extent, the success of the system. No educational system can rise above the quality of its teachers.

PTA Provision of Financial Assistance on the Management of Secondary Schools

No organization can function effectively without financial assistance. Schools require money for payment of teachers' salaries and purchase of PTA facilities. Bassey (2010) opines that one of the key resources required for every institution or organization for effective performance is finance. Daniel and Hassan (2011) aver that PTA provision of financial assistance to schools may include paying teachers' salaries, financing the construction and rehabilitation to establishing money generating projects. Edem (2007) maintains that finance is an important factor which contributes to the success of an educational management. Since education must be paid for and as educational provision develops so does the cost increases. The important aspect of school financing is that it increases the number of teachers employed. Instructional materials and general school infrastructures available to the school brings about faster development to the schools. Kwaghbo (2008) states that PTA funding as is primarily concerned with processing, expanding and maintaining financial assistance in the achievement of educational goals. The huge expenditure incurred by schools call for careful and judicious utilization of financial resources towards achieving various management of educational objectives.

Oluwole (2005) opines that PTA participation make up half of the total returns in fees from such activities as sales of agricultural products, arts and craft among others. Ekundayo (2009) states that money provided by PTA is one of the very important resources needed in the management of education and needs to be well provided and managed. This is because all other vital elements in the schools can be obtained through the provision of financial assistance from federal, state or local government. That financial assistance is one of the most important factors for the realization of educational objectives. Lack of funds often leads to poor planning and execution of educational projects.

PTA Provision of Instructional Materials on the Management of Secondary Schools

Instructional materials have been used since when primitive man drew pictures on the sand and walls of caves. Pictures have always helped to illustrate and convey ideas. Modern instructional materials have evolved from primitive sketches to such complicated devices such as working models, motion picture, television teaching, machines, video and audio- recording devices among others. Huen (2010) defines instructional materials as the organization and integration of a number of elements to

facilitate learning. Teaching in the class is no longer conceptualized in the narrow sense as merely a matter of the teacher addressing class in more comprehensive approach. The teacher organizes the content of the lesson using symbols of a given language and appropriate methods and instructional materials. Subjects can be taught more effectively through the use of instructional materials. In the traditional concept of things, it means “pieces of apparatus”. Apparatus helps teachers to teach well Shie (2011), opines that instructional materials are a systematic approach to the general problem of teaching and learning. With the use of instructional materials provided by PTA to various schools it will assist instructors to plan their lesson logically and drive them systematically.

Wokocha (2011) opines that the instructional materials provided by PTA to schools have been classified as print and non-print, projected and non-projected, visual and non-visual. The visual instructional materials in this group facilitate teaching by appealing to the sense of vision; they can be grouped into computer which PTA provides to their respective schools to facilitate teaching and learning. In addition diagrams, graphs, charts, maps, posters among others are materials provided by PTA to their schools. Ngor (2008) observes that there are broad ranges of information carrying materials that can be used to facilitate effective and efficient learning. It involves human and non-human resources used by the learner in isolation or in combination formally and informally to facilitate acquisition and evaluation of knowledge. Wokocha (2011) states that instructional materials simply refer to various kinds of teaching aids, equipment and instructional aids used for the proper education of learners. Umar (2007) sees instructional materials as very useful and powerful tools that facilitate effective learning and understanding. That instructional materials result in more effective learning of factual information and skills more than mere verbalization.

According to Ada, Chioma and Maduewesi (2009), instructional materials vividly represent those alternative channels of communication which a teacher can use to communicate information. Obanya (2009) states that for efficiency, schools require instructional materials for day to day administrative work. That school devoid of these materials cannot operate successfully. Whether one is a principal or a teacher, inadequate provision of instructional materials affect job performance negatively. There is therefore the need for the provision of instructional materials by PTA to compliment teaching and learning materials like books, wall carts, flash cards and picture card, television set, computer among others. It is sometimes supposed that a brilliant teacher does not need any teaching aids. A teacher’s grasp of the subject matter, his clarity and eloquence, his sympathetic personality make teaching aids unnecessary. There is much more error than truth in this. The wise teacher, however, brilliant will make effective possible use of teaching aids.

PTA Provision of Infrastructural Facilities on the Management of Secondary Schools

Infrastructural facilities refers to the physical and spatial enablers of teaching and learning which include classroom, libraries laboratories, water supply, workshop, transport and communication system, play field, school farms and garden. Infrastructural facilities are the material things that facilitate teaching and learning processes in the school (Ogwu, 2010). Udoh (2011) posits that the state of infrastructural facilities in Nigerian schools is deplorable. PTA is therefore assisting government in providing infrastructural facilities to schools for teaching and learning. Infrastructural facilities like buildings, science laboratories, toilet facilities and water are often provided by PTA to

schools. Naidoo (2005) rightly observes that in many public secondary schools beside the fact that these facilities are lacking, they are often broken down completely because of lack of maintenance in some schools particularly in the rural area where the situation is so bad that two different classes are housed in one single classroom, with one class backing the other. Two teachers are forced to teach their individual classes at the same time with the help of a moveable chalkboard. One is therefore left to wonder how children can assimilate anything in such an environment. PTA readily assists in the provision of infrastructural facilities especially in secondary schools. Yusuf (2010) observes that every year various school projects and infrastructural facilities are provided by PTA through raising of funds and rehabilitation of infrastructures in schools.

According to Gubesa (2008:47), PTA intervention enhances the provision of infrastructural facilities like laboratories which have the following roles to play in effective teaching and learning in secondary schools.

- i. They supply a concrete basis for conceptual thinking and reduce meaninglessness of constructs, concepts and units.
- ii. They make learning more permanent.
- iii. They arouse and maintain a high degree of learner's interest.
- iv. They offer a reality of learning experience which stimulates self instructional activities on the part of learners.
- v. They develop continuity of thought.
- vi. They provide experience riot easily obtained without practice and contribute to the depth, variety and effectiveness of the teaching and learning process.
- vii. They provide experiences and materials for research after the teaching and learning process.
- viii. It is a dependable and reliable source of information and data for practice and other academic pursuit

Azemba (2008) asserts that if students are to have an all round education, infrastructural facility like sporting facilities, games and sports should be compulsory even for the physically disabled ones. This therefore calls for the needs for regular provision of infrastructural facilities by PTA and regular maintenance by the schools authority. The infrastructural facilities have greatly helped in the management of secondary schools. Idoko (2005) notes that most programmes of instruction and students service require some physical facilities. Such items provided by PTA include school building, school grounds and equipment, school buses and other transportation equipment. Ogwuche (2012) states that infrastructural facilities should be attractive and adequate. It should be stimulating and adapted to the needs of students.

Conclusion

The paper has established the fact that PTA recruitment of teachers, provision of financial assistance, infrastructural facilities and instructional materials are essential on the management of secondary schools in North Central Zone of Nigeria.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made:

- i. Both federal and state governments should recruit adequate and qualified teachers in all their secondary schools to enhance teaching and learning in schools.

- ii. Enough financial provision should be made available to all principals of schools for effective and efficient management of their various schools to enhance the standard of management of such schools.
- iii. It is also recommended that provision of enough infrastructural facilities should be the duty of both the government and other school proprietors with PTA only supplementing and the reverse should not be the case.
- iv. Both government and PTA should also intensify efforts in providing adequate and quality instructional materials for efficient and effective teaching and learning activities.

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