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# IMPACT OF SUBSIDY REMOVAL AND CURRICULUM IMPLEMENTATION IN NIGERIAN SCHOOLS

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**Abstract:** This paper assessed the impact of subsidy removal on curriculum implementation in Nigerian schools. Using secondary data which were collected from online publications and print materials. The paper concluded that subsidy removal in Nigeria has affected implementation of curriculum in educational institutions in Nigeria. The subsidy removal have affected administrative staff, teachers and led to increase in prices of providing infrastructure facilities in educational institutions and procurement of instructional materials for curriculum implementation in schools across the country. 20% of subsidy funds saved should be allocated to education at the federal, state and local government councils. This will help to meet up with the cost of infrastructural facilities. Government should provide schools buses to all educational institutions to enable schools transport their teachers, administrative staff and students to schools. Government should provide schools with instructional materials (teaching and learning) for ease implementation of school curriculum.

**Key words:** Teachers and Curriculum implementation, Schools, Subsidy removal.

## Introduction

According to (project clue 2023) subsidy is a decrease in the market price of products and services by the government so that people with limited purchasing power can obtain such goods and services. It occurs when the government assists customers in paying a price that is lower than the market price for consumer products. A subsidy is any measure that keeps prices consumers pay for good or product below market levels for consumers or for producers above market. Subsidies take different forms. Some subsidies have a direct impact on price. These include grants, tax reductions and exemptions or price controls (Adebiyi, 2011). Subsidy is a policy adopted by an institution or government to reduce prices of goods for an individual's or a firm by paying part of the production cost. A subsidy is an official payment on goods for an individual or a firm, usually in the form of a cash payment from the government to reduce the prices of goods.

(Ogunode & Ojochenemi,2023) reported that in the inaugural address of the newly elected President of Nigeria he declared that there would no longer be a petroleum subsidies regime as it was not sustainable. "We commend the decision of the outgoing administration in phasing out the petrol subsidy regime which has increasingly favoured the rich more than the poor. Subsidy can no longer justify its ever-increasing costs in the wake of drying resources. We shall, instead, re-channel the funds into better investment in public infrastructure, education, health care and jobs that will materially improve the lives of millions".

Subsidy removal has been conceptualized by (Ogunode, & Aregbesola, 2023) as an official elimination of subsidies on products formerly subsidized. Subsidy removal is the decision of the government or institutions to stop payment of subsidies on products or services previously subsidized. Subsidy removal is the stoppage of the subsidy regime in institutions or countries. Subsidy removal is the policy of liberating the prices of goods and services to be regulated by forces of demand and supply (Ogunode et al., 2023).

The federal government led by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu announced the removal of subsidy on Premium Motor Spirit (PMS), popularly known as petrol. In its reaction to the new development, the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL) approved an upward review in the pump price of petroleum nationwide. This resulted in increment in the price up to an average of N500 from an average of N189 (Ogunode & Ojochenemi 2023). The removal of petroleum subsidy affected operation of all institutions in Nigeria. (Ogunode et al, 2023) asserted educational institutions have been affected. School administrators, teachers and students are not exempted. Since the removal of the subsidy school administration and teaching and learning have not been the same again. Curriculum implementation is a sub-set of educational institutions. It is very critical to education development and attainment of educational goals. It is imperatives to examine the impact of subsidy removal on curriculum implementation in Nigerian schools.

**Concept of Curriculum Implementation**

Curriculum implementation is the act of executing the planned curriculum in the school to modify behave of the learners (Akin-Ibidiran, Ogunode & Ibidiran 2022). Curriculum implementation is the process of carrying out an organized and planned curriculum document into actions in the educational environment through professional teachers, learners, school administrators, and parents as well as interaction with physical facilities, instructional materials, and psychological and social environments. Curriculum implementation is the act of executing a planned curriculum document into the practical curriculum ((Akin-Ibidiran, et al, 2022).

(Chikumbi & Makamure, 2000), conceptualized curriculum implementation as putting into practice the officially prescribed courses of study, syllabuses and subjects. From the above, curriculum implementation is the virtual and practical execution of prescribed courses of study in school, syllabuses and subjects in the classrooms within a given time. Curriculum implementation can also be viewed as the process of the planned prescribed courses of study being translated into syllabuses, schemes of work and lessons by professional teachers to be delivered to students in the classroom online or physically.

(Okebukola, 2004) defines curriculum implementation as the transition of the objectives of the curriculum from paper to practice. That is, only effective curriculum implementation ensures the achievement of the objectives for which the curriculum was designed to attain. (Obanya, 2004) viewed implementation of curriculum as day-to-day activities that school management and classroom teachers undertake in the pursuit of the objective of any given curriculum while curriculum implementation according to (Garba, 2004) is putting the curriculum into work for the achievement of the goals for which the curriculum is designed.

**Impact of Subsidy Removal on Curriculum Implementation**

For the purpose of this paper, the following educational resources would be considered; funds, administrative staff, teachers, infrastructure facilities and instructional materials.

**Funds**

Funds are importance resources needed for curriculum implementation. (Ogunode & Musa, 2021) viewed funds as 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. (Akin-Ibidiran, Ogunode & Ibidiran 2022) maintained that funds are needed to procure the human and material resources needed for the implementation of the curriculum. Resources like facilities, staff, instructional aids, supervision, energy etc. Subsidy removal in Nigeria have reduced the volume of funds required to implement curriculum in Nigerian schools. Subsidy removal led to inflation which affected purchasing power of Naira. Larger amount of monies can now buy small quantities of educational resources (Ogunode & Ojochenemi2023).

**Administrative Staff**

Administrative staff are non-teaching professionals in the educational institutions providing essential services that aids implementation of teaching programme and research works. Administrative staff are very important in curriculum implementation. They provide services that support teachers and students to teach and learn comfortably in classrooms. The functions and roles of administrative staff in schools have been affected due to subsidy removal. Subsidy removal which has led to increase in transportation fare has prevented many administrative staff to carry out their assignments due to increase in transportation fare. (Darlington, & Monday, 2023) noted that one notable effect of subsidy removal is the surge in transportation costs. With the removal of subsidies, fuel prices rise, directly impacting public transportation fares. Commuters now face higher expenses for their daily travel, influencing their budgeting decisions. Consequently, consumers may opt for alternative modes of transportation or adjust their commuting habits, which can have implications for their overall purchasing behavior. Many administrative staff are now missing offices due to their inability to come to schools.

**Teachers**

Teachers, the implementer of school curriculum in Nigeria are affected by subsidy removal. Many teachers cannot effectively implement school's curriculum as planned because of cost of transportation impact because of removal of petroleum subsidy. (Atiga & Ogunode, 2021) opined that teachers are the implementers of school curriculum. Their functions include teaching, preparing lesson note and lesson plan, evaluating the students, sets exam questions and marks answer sheet. Their functions also include providing leadership in classes, perform academic services, relate with parents on feedback on students' progress and sometime carry students for excursion with the school permission. The teachers are very important factors in the management of educational institutions especially the secondary schools. The teachers' roles cannot be replaced in delivering of teaching programme. (Ogunode, & Aregbesola, 2023), noted that teaching programme implementation in Nigerian educational institutions has been affected by the subsidy removal. The increment in fuel price has led to an increment in transportation fares which directly and indirectly affected the teachers' movement to schools. Many teachers are now missing classes due to their inability to come to school while in tertiary institutions, many lecturers have decided to compress their lectures to once or twice a week. And other lecturers have changed to a virtual model of teaching. The post-subsidy removal in Nigeria has affected the implementation of teaching programmes in Nigerian educational institutions. Subsidy removal has impacted negatively on the entire educational system leading to a reduction in the teaching hours in schools because teachers cannot cope with the increment in transportation fares (Bamidele 2023; Musa, 2023; Ogunode et al., 2023).

**Infrastructural Facilities**

Subsidy removal in Nigeria has led to increment in the cost of provision of infrastructure facilities in educational institutions. (Ogunode 2020), viewed infrastructure facilities as those facilities aiding delivery of academic and non-academic services in educational institutions. Infrastructural facilities include; libraries, laboratories, halls, offices, administrative blocks, hostels, roads facilities, water, electricity, internet etc.

infrastructure facilities are component of curriculum implementation in schools (Ohiare, Ogunode, & Sarafadeen, 2021). Fuel subsidy removal has affected the construction and delivery of housing in Nigeria. (**Uwaegbulam,** 2023) maintained that the implementation of subsidy removal would affect logistics, personnel and overheads, which would lead to increment in wages and salaries of artisans, technicians and support staff in the construction industry. The development is coming at a time when inflation has continued to drive costs higher for everyone, including cost of construction inputs and squeezing margins in the sector. President, Micheal Shonubi told The Guardian, the effects should be minimal as most plants and equipment used for construction are powered by diesel. Even the materials are mostly transported using heavy-duty trucks, which also use diesel. The workforce, the human elements in the construction process will feel the effects of the petrol hike, by paying more to commute to and from sites. This will lead to an increase in the costs of the labour component of construction." "Furthermore, operational costs for the consulting firms, who superintend the construction process will rise and many firms may have to review their operational strategies. Also, (Agwo 2023) noted that implementation of subsidy removal would directly affect three major economic inputs of the real estate sector – labour, materials and overheads. Under the labour, it would lead to increment in wages and salaries of artisans, technicians and support staff in the construction industry. For building materials, the cost of production and haulage would increase while overhead is expected to rise like the cost of land by speculators and vendors, which will lead to movement of the population to the peripheral areas. In the outskirts, there is likely to be increase in rental and capital values

**Instructional Materials**

(Ogunode & Josiah 2023), noted that the school system is designed to function with the application and deployment of instructional materials. Instructional materials are very essential to the development of education. Instructional materials are one of the critical components of the educational system. Instructional materials according to (Ogunode et al 2023) are educational resources assembled by the teachers to implement teaching programmes in the classroom. Instructional materials are special educational resources that aid the teachers to deliver the lesson. (Fadeiye 2005) viewed instructional materials as visual and audio-visual aids, concrete or non-concrete, used by teachers to improve the quality of teaching and learning activities in schools. Subsidy removal of fuel products in Nigeria has led to an increment in the price of instructional materials /resources. The prices of various instructional materials have gone up due to the removal of subsidies in Nigeria (Okonkwo, 2023; Omoniyi, 2023). Subsidy removal affected by the petrol price hike is the prices of commodities in the market moving up high. "The cost of instructional materials is very high because of the cost of transporting these resources from the cities (Darlington & Monday, 2023; Ejiogu et al., 2023). (Sunday Sun 2023), reported that the school administrator of Graceville Christian School in Jos North, Mrs. Adeloye Lucky noted the increase in this fuel price is affecting education already. Nigerian books which we used to buy at N1, 200, now cost N2,000, some N2,500 for the same book because of the cost of transportation and you can't blame them because they can't sell at a loss either, they have to sell it at a profit," Lucky said. Fuel is our life wire in this country, it is something that when you touch in this country, it will affect everything. Fuel affects everything.

**Conclusion and Recommendations**

This paper assessed the impact of subsidy removal on curriculum implementation in Nigerian schools. The paper concluded that subsidy removal in Nigeria has affected the implementation of curriculum in educational institutions in Nigeria. The subsidy removal has prevented administrative staff and teachers from effectively carrying out their functions. The paper also affirmed that subsidy removal has led to increase in prices of providing infrastructure facilities in educational institutions and procurement of instructional materials for

curriculum implementation in schools across the country. Based on this implementation problems identified in the paper, the following are hereby recommended:

1. 20% of subsidy funds saved should be allocated to education at the federal, state and local government councils. This will help to meet up with the cost of infrastructure facilities.
2. Government should provide schools buses to all educational institutions to enable schools transport their teachers, administrative staff and students to schools;
3. Government should provide schools with instructional materials (teaching and learning) for easy implementation of school curriculum.

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