

Impact of Subsidy Removal on Supervision of Schools in Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

This paper examined the impact of subsidy removal on supervision of schools in Nigeria. Secondary data collected from both print and online publications were used for the paper. The paper established that subsidy removal in Nigeria affected supervisor's job performance and led to increment in supervision resources. The paper recommended that the federal and state government should increase funding of education and more priority should be given to schools supervision. Government should provide more buses and cars for supervisors and subsidize supervision resources to enable effective school supervision in Nigeria.

KEYWORDS: *Subsidy Removal, Supervision of Schools.*

Introduction

Subsidy is conceptualized by CPPA, (2012) as deliberate attempt by the government to support a chosen economic agent – a consumer and a producer and it can be applied in any market that involves the buying and selling of products and or services. Haley and Haley (2013) pointed out that subsidies are provided in diverse formats, encompassing direct assistance such as cash grants and interest-free loans, as well as indirect support such as tax exemptions, insurance coverage, low-interest loans, accelerated depreciation, and rent rebates. It is any measure that keeps the prices consumers pay for a good or product below market levels for consumers or for producers.

Onyeizugbe & Onwuka, (2012) observed that in the 1970s, subsidy was introduced into the Nigerian economy. Fuel subsidy means that a fraction of the price that consumers are supposed to pay to enjoy the use of petroleum products is paid by government so as to ease the price burden. The Nigerian government have been subsidizing petroleum products for Nigerian for about five decades now. The subsidy payment regime in Nigeria have been plagued with corruption, mismanagement and diversion of funds (Ogunode & Chukwuemeka 2023). Also, Subsidy payment has negatively affected the entire Nigerian economy. Research has it that the Federal Government of Nigeria has spent over N3.5tn on petrol subsidies in 2022. The former Finance Minister, Zainab Ahmed Akabueze noted that fuel subsidies often had a huge impact on the economy and the lives of the people ((Punch, 2022a; Punch, 2022b; Punch, 2022c; Ogunode, & Ukozor, 2023))

The negative impact of subsidy payment on the Nigerian economy and the high rate of corruption in the regime made many Nigerians called for subsidy removal or stoppage. Subsidy removal is defined by Ogunode, & Aregbesola (2023) as the official termination of subsidies on goods and services that are enjoying subsidies before. Subsidy removal is a policy to end subsidy payment on goods and services within a country. Subsidy removal is an official elimination of subsidy on products formerly subsidized. Subsidy removal is the decision of government or institutions to stop payment of subsidy on products or services previously subsidized. Subsidy removal is the stoppage of subsidy regime in

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an institutions or country. Subsidy removal is the policy of liberating the prices of goods and service to be regulated by forces of demand and supply (Ogunode, et al 2023). The Nigerian government in May 29, 2023 announced the removal subsidy on petroleum products. This announcement led to increase in the general prices of goods and services and increment in transportation fare (Ogunode & Ojochenemi, 2023; Project Clue. 2023; Sunday Sun. 2023). The increment in transportation fares affected all workers in Nigeria both public and private institutions staff this is because majorities depend on cars and buses for daily transportation to offices.

It affected educational management and sub-educational programme like supervision. Alfonso et al in Ogunode & Richard (2021) defined instructional supervision as behaviour as officially designed by the organization that directly affects teacher behaviour in such a way to facilitate pupils' learning and achieve the goals of the organization. The position of these authors regarding instructional supervision is that, it is basically concerned with supporting and assisting teachers to improve instruction through changing their behaviour. Idoko in Ogunode, Olatunde-Aiyedun, & Akin-Ibidiran (2021) defined instructional supervision as a process of formerly making provision to change one behaviour to improve learning. He maintains that behaviour can include administrative, counseling, supervisory and students' behaviour. Idoko (2005) in Ogunode & Ajape (2021) opined that instructional supervision is a process of bringing about improvement in instruction by working with the people who are working with pupils. Supervision according to Ogunode & Ibrahim, (2023) is a programme of instruction designed to improve teachers' job performance and students' academic performance in schools. Instructional supervision is a combination of activities meant to advance the work effectiveness of teachers and other personnel in the school business. Supervision is the process of improving teaching and learning in educational institutions because of realizing the goals of education. Instructional supervision is critical to the development of education.

Harris in Ahaotu, Ogunode & Obi-Ezenekwe (2021) listed ten tasks of supervision which are instruction related as the following;

- a) **Developing Curriculum:** Designing or redesigning what to be taught by whom, when, where and what pattern, developing curriculum guide, establishing standard, planning instruction units and instituting new courses.
- b) **Providing staff:** Assuming the availability of instructional staff members are inadequate and without appropriate competence for facilitating instruction, recruitment, selection and screening can be recommended.
- c) **Providing Facilities:** Designing or redesigning and equipping facilities for instruction, development of space and equipment specification.
- d) **Providing materials:** Selecting and obtaining appropriate material for use in implementing curricular design. Previewing, evaluating, designing and otherwise finding ways to provide appropriate materials.
- e) **Arranging for in-service education:** Planning and implementing learning experience that will improve the performance of the staff instruction related ways. This involves workshop, consolidation, field trips and training sections as well as formal education.
- f) **Orienting staff members:** Proving staff members with basic information necessary to carry out assigned responsibilities. This includes getting new staff members acquainted with facilities and also involves keeping the staff informed of organizational development.
- g) **Relating special pupils' service:** Arranging for careful co-ordination of services to children to ensure optimum support for the teaching process. This involves developing policies, assigning priorities and defining relationship among service personnel to maximize relationship between service offered and instructional goals of the schools.

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- h) **Developing pupils' relation:** Providing for a free flow of information on matters of instructions to and from the pupils while securing optimum levels of involvement in the promotion of better instructor.

Evaluating instruction: planning, organizing and implementing procedures for gathering, analyzing, interpretation and decision making for improvement of instruction.

The purposes of instructional supervision include: to directly influence the behaviour of teachers and the teaching processes employed to promote pupils' learning, to ensure that each individual teacher within the school system has been performing the duties for which he was scheduled, to cooperatively develop favourable climate for effective teaching and learning (Unknown). Others that have been identified by Ogunaju in Ogunode, et al (2023) are: to know the performance of the teachers recruited to teach in the school system; to determine whether a teacher should be transferred, promoted, retrained or dismissed, to improve the incompetent teacher; to discover special abilities or qualities possessed by teacher in the schools, to provide a guide to staff development, to know the effectiveness of classroom management, to assess the "tone" of the school and identify some of its most urgent needs. Ekundayo, Oyerinde, & Kolawole (2013) in Ogunode & Fabiyi, (2023), submitted that the essence of instructional supervision in schools is to ensure things are done the way they should be to achieve the stated objectives. Hence, the purpose of supervision of instruction includes: directly influencing the behaviour of teachers and the teaching process employed to promote students' learning; and to ensure that each teacher within the school system has been performing the duties to which he was scheduled, and cooperatively develop a favourable climate for effective teaching and learning. It is important to examine the impact of subsidy removal on supervision of schools in Nigeria.

Impact of Subsidy Removal on Supervision of Schools in Nigeria

Subsidy removal in Nigeria has affected Supervisors Job performance and led to increment in supervision resources.

Supervisors Job performance

The removal of subsidy on petroleum in Nigeria has affected job performance of supervisors and teachers in educational institutions. Casting (2016) viewed job performance as execution, conduct, compliance or conformity with stated decisions or directives issued by a super-ordinate or demanded by a job. Supervisor job performance involves is the extent a supervisor carries out the official assignment. Supervisor job performance includes; visitation to schools and ensuring teachers carries out their function professionally. This shows that performance of any job must be according to the pattern set performing such tasks. Supervision job require the movement of supervisors form one educational institution to another educational institutions. These movement are mostly done with vehicles that used fuel. The increase in the prices of fuel has made many supervisor unable to travel with their personal cars for supervision and to even to fuel official vehicles for supervision purposes. Ogunode. & Ukozor (2023) and Ogunode & Agbade, (2023b) maintained that the increase in the price of fuel has worsened the state of teachers and students who have to depend daily on transportation to school. It makes life more difficult as most of them depend on it to carry out their educational programme. Increment in price of fuel have affected most academic staff (teachers). Most of the academic staff (supervisors) cannot fuel their cars and public facilities are also expensive. The increment have forced many academic staff (Supervisor) to restructure their lectures to one day or two day per week. The job performance of many supervisors in Nigeria have been affected due to policy of reduction of working hours in most public institutions due to subsidy removal that led to increment in transportation fares across the country.

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Increment in Supervision Resources

Subsidy removal on fuel in Nigeria has led to increase in the general prices of educational resources which include supervision resources. Supervision resources are resources planned, organized and designed for supervision of schools. Supervision resources are resources or facilities supervisors used to carry out supervision in educational institutions. Ogunode & Ojochenemi (2023) noted that subsidy removal of fuel products in Nigeria has led to an increment in the price of instructional materials /resources. Also, Ogunode, & Aregbesola (2023); Okonkwo, (2023) and Omoniyi, (2023) concluded that the prices of various instrument materials have gone up due to the removal of subsidies in Nigeria. Subsidy removal affected by the petrol price hike is the prices of commodities in the market moving up high. 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. "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).

Conclusion and Recommendations

In conclusion, this paper discussed the impact of subsidy removal on supervision of schools in Nigeria. The paper established that subsidy removal in Nigeria affected supervisor's job performance and led to increment in supervision resources. The paper recommended the following:

1. Federal and state government should increase funding of education and more priorities should be given to schools supervision.
2. Government should provide more buses and cars for supervisors and subsidize supervision resources to enable effective school supervision in Nigeria.

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