

Utilization And Application Of Research Findings In The Nigerian Public Sector – A Call For Change

Pemanfaatan dan Penerapan Temuan Penelitian di Sektor Publik Nigeria – Panggilan Untuk Perubahan

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Abstract

Research outcomes or findings are regarded in developed nations as important in expanding existing knowledge on any phenomenon in the society. This is because it fosters growth of logical reasoning and it is crucial for socio-economic progress of the society. Findings from the study showed that the Nigerian government does not appreciate the importance of research outcomes or finding that is why the public sector is backward in terms of socio-economic development due to neglect of the research component in the economy; some of the importance of research findings include: The current status of research in the country is not encouraging to foster socio-economic development because Research and its findings as a tool for socio-economic development has not been properly put into use or applied appropriately; among the challenges besetting utilization and application of research findings are: lack of implementation of research findings, lack of reliable and valid data, secrecy and inadequate funding from both government and nongovernmental organizations. A content analysis and a descriptive research technique was employed for obtaining data through the use of secondary sources; e.g. reviewing of existing literature on the topic under investigation; the paper recommends that research should be adequately funded by the government with the support of the private sector, Research findings should be given priority and must be fully utilized and applied in policy formulation and implementation to achieve desired socio – economic growth and development and that: Research findings should be made available to the public for use in solving the human problems.

Keywords: research findings, utilization, meaningful development and growth, content analysis, nigerian public sector

Abstrak

Hasil atau temuan penelitian di negara maju dianggap penting dalam memperluas pengetahuan yang ada tentang fenomena apa pun di masyarakat.

Hal ini karena mendorong pertumbuhan penalaran logis dan sangat penting untuk kemajuan sosial ekonomi masyarakat. Temuan dari studi menunjukkan bahwa pemerintah Nigeria tidak menghargai pentingnya hasil penelitian atau temuan itu sebabnya sektor publik terbelakang dalam hal pembangunan sosial-ekonomi karena mengabaikan komponen penelitian dalam perekonomian; beberapa temuan penelitian yang penting antara lain: Status penelitian di tanah air saat ini tidak mendorong untuk mendorong pembangunan sosial-ekonomi karena Penelitian dan temuannya sebagai alat untuk pembangunan sosial-ekonomi belum dimanfaatkan atau diterapkan secara tepat; Di antara tantangan yang melanda pemanfaatan dan penerapan temuan penelitian adalah: kurangnya implementasi temuan penelitian, kurangnya data yang dapat diandalkan dan valid, kerahasiaan dan pendanaan yang tidak memadai baik dari pemerintah maupun lembaga swadaya masyarakat. Analisis isi dan teknik penelitian deskriptif digunakan untuk memperoleh data melalui penggunaan sumber-sumber sekunder; misalnya meninjau literatur yang ada tentang topik yang diselidiki; makalah ini merekomendasikan bahwa penelitian harus didanai secara memadai oleh pemerintah dengan dukungan sektor swasta, Temuan penelitian harus diprioritaskan dan harus dimanfaatkan dan diterapkan sepenuhnya dalam perumusan dan implementasi kebijakan untuk mencapai pertumbuhan dan pembangunan sosial-ekonomi yang diinginkan dan bahwa: Temuan penelitian harus tersedia untuk umum untuk digunakan dalam memecahkan masalah manusia.

Kata kunci: temuan penelitian, pemanfaatan, perkembangan dan pertumbuhan yang berarti, analisis konten, sektor publik Nigeria

Introduction

With the emergence of globalization, every country is determined to be relevant in the global economy by being an active participant in international affairs; this involves a lot of research and development through programmes, and adequate funding. While the advanced countries have achieved remarkable records in research and development outputs; this cannot be said about Nigeria. Perhaps this is why the country is technically and technologically dependent and therefore remained underdeveloped. There exists a relationship between research and the utilization and application of its findings in any development policies. Meaningful development and growth depend essentially on research outcomes .and that, the findings of research must be fully utilized and applied in

every sector of the economy if we are to grow and develop economically, socially and politically.

This study examined the utilization and application of research findings in the Nigerian public sector. It is concerned with the utilization and application of research findings in solving socio-economic and political problems to achieve economic growth and sustainable national development but many people have not fully understood what research can do in the Nigerian public sector in enhancing the desired national development. Suffice to say that research is a fundamental tool for knowledge development and dissemination; the essence of which is to logically and systematically find solutions to human problems for improved better living condition. There exists a lot of research findings in Nigeria such that the country has no reason to be retrogressing instead of progressing if there is the effective and optimum utilization and application of the research findings.

Conceptualizing Research and Research Findings

Research is the process of finding solutions to problems through planned and systematic collection, analysis and interpretation of data. Research is mainly aimed at discovering the relationships that exist among the phenomena of the world in which we live (Osualla, 2001). According to Ajoku (2006), research is the search for knowledge, truth, similarities and relationships, and the process of finding solutions to problems through the systematic collection, analysis and interpretation of data. Okeke (2004) stated that research is an activity that involves observation and description of the characteristic properties of objects or events for the purpose of discovering relationships between variables and developing generalization that may be used to predict future occurrences.

Research involves identification of problems, gathering new data, finding solution to a problem through carefully designed procedures and logical analysis. Scientific research implies careful examination of an object or situation for the purpose of effecting societal development and improvement. It is a way of acquiring functional, dependable and useful information and data about the particular object of research as well as the analysis of the data collected in order to arrive at a valid conclusion (Eboh, 2009). The most important function of research therefore is to discover answers to meaningful

questions aimed at remedying societal challenges. Research therefore is an intensive and extensive search for solutions to problems in a society (Beko, 2005).

The problem could be in education, business, politics, etc. Research has found application in many areas of human endeavor. One of such areas is education where we have social research. Travers cited in (Okeke, 2004) defined social research as an activity directed toward the development of an organized body of scientific knowledge about the events which the researchers are concerned. Ahiakwo (2003) stated that social research is a diligent and systematic attempt to provide plausible answers to societal problems by the process of logically designed operations or steps. It is a systematic and scholarly application of the scientific method, to the solution of educational problems (Osuala, 2004). Research has contributed immensely to societal progress, solving problems, promoting of social progress, development and national survival. Hence the role of research in general cannot be underestimated. Progressive change as a result of major changes in the social structure in a society is made possible by the peoples' ability in creativity/innovative ideas stimulated by defined process/procedures that are channeled through research which is a formal work undertaken systematically to increase the stock of knowledge about humanity, culture and society, and the use of this stock of knowledge to devise new applications (OECD, 2002).

Evidences from countries around the world suggest that research centres which were established with the intention to evolve needed initiatives/strategies helped to reduce development challenges and maximize environmental potentials. While appreciative landmark/breakthroughs have been accomplished in several countries in this regard, many others are still striving to devise means through which their potentials could be harnessed. Empirical evidences support the fact that what differentiates the level of development among these countries is the degree of commitment/funding by government/corporate organizations towards research activities, attitudes/how informed are its people in appreciating and encouraging local inventions as well as the amount of synergy between research centres and government/corporate organizations (Emma, Chukwuemeka, Oji, Okafor, & Onwuchekwa 2014).

Research impacts affect all spheres of human endeavour, be it social, economic, political, educational, science and technology. It is a major determinant to the pace of growth and development of the entire society. Advancement in research gave rise to the

growth in science and technology which in turn lead to industrialization – creation of job opportunities, increase income, increase production of goods and services, creation of wealth, improved quality of life, improved transportation/communication system, networking the entire regions of the world, bringing together people and integrate nations socially, economically and politically (Chinelo 2011).

Research entails cautious assessment of an object or situation for the purpose of effecting development and improvement. It is a way of acquiring dependable and useful information and data about the particular object of research as well as the analysis of the data collected in order to arrive at a valid conclusion. The prime function of research therefore is to discover answers to meaningful questions aimed at remedying societal challenges. Walters as cited in (Oyesola 2010) views research as the application of the scientific method to attain or prove new and exciting theories. It is search, invention, discovery and establishment of new knowledge, facts, principles, theories and methods.

It is also acknowledged as a systematic and objective search for knowledge, to establish theories and prove the truth of ideas, hypotheses and assumptions. It is a search which requires care and diligence for new facts. It is experimentation to find knowledge, to take existing knowledge and explore ways of applying it to the many problems of life (Oyesola 2010). Research plays an important role in innovation, which, in recent years, has taken centre stage as one of the main drivers of economic growth and poverty alleviation. Policy-makers in turn, can help spread the benefits of innovation through policies that encourage growth in the areas of science, technology and innovation (UNESCO 2014).

Nigerian political leaders, policy makers and implementers, institutional administrators unfortunately are yet to fully key into this global trend that revolutionizes crude production, poor yield, insufficiency, poverty, stagnation, underdevelopment into highly proficient/productive poverty eradication, fulfillment and development as observed in some other parts of the world through research and development (Udochukwu 2011). A better description of Nigeria's experience is to say that its functionaries adopted the framework of establishing institutions (research institutions and universities) and failing to adapt the true tenets upon which such institutes evolved in their source of origin. These tenets include establishment, proper/courteous management led by sound/seasoned administrators appointed in unbiased manner, proper funding, desired research outcomes,

appreciation and acceptance/utilization of end products of research by its people (Kalu 2013).

Utilization and Application of Research Findings in Nigerian Public Sector

Scientific research is concerned with careful examination of an object or situation for the purpose of effecting societal development and improvement. It is a way of acquiring functional, dependable and useful data about any topic of research and the analysis of the data collected in order to arrive at logical and valid conclusions. The most important function of research therefore is to discover answers to questions with the purpose of remedying societal challenges. A nation's level of development is determined by the level and effectiveness of its research formations and that a nation's progress is a function of its research efficiency. Any country that must achieve any scientific and technological breakthrough must necessarily develop a sound philosophy and well defined galvanize research institutions to operate outside of any political interference/and manipulations. Therefore, Nigerian government and its people must give priority to research in order to achieve the desired goal and benefits associated with research and development (Lucky, & Omofonmwan 2013). Evidence suggests that what stimulates development in any nations is the degree of commitment and funding by government and corporate organizations towards research activities and how informed are its people in appreciating and encouraging local inventions and synergy between research centres and government and corporate organizations are crucial to the utilization and application of research findings (Baumback 1992).

Research impacts and affects all spheres of human endeavour be it social, economic, political, educational, science and technology and serves as determinant factor for accelerated growth and development of the entire society. Thus progress in research leads to growth in science and technology which in turn lead to industrialization thereby creating job opportunities, increase income (Baumback 1992); production of goods and services, wealth creation, improved living condition and quality of life, improved transportation/communication system, networking different parts of the world by bringing people together and integrating people from different parts of the world, socially, economically and politically (Abubakar, 2002). This is why government policy-makers must be aware of the enormous contributions that research findings can make in solving

nasty problems and enhancing sustained national development, but it is pathetic that there is low acceptance of research outcome and utilization despite the fact that policy-makers who are the producers may be aware of the significance of research and its findings; they hardly ever bothered to search for and adopt research results in planning and managing national resources, as evidenced in poor utilization and application of research findings in approaching national issues (Onuoha 2013). This most often shows lack of concern to issues that must actually be addressed in order to raise the living standards of the majority of Nigerians and has been the problem in Nigeria and most African countries where policies are highly politicized to suit the government in power rather than address the real needs of the society (Chinelo 2011).

Another instance is even when professors who published ideal research findings in international journals, once they got appointed from government, tend to pay allegiance to government forgetting their researches. Oghenekohwo, et al (2007) stressed on research efficiency in Nigeria and suggested that any discussion related research should be depoliticized. This buttressed the fact that policy-makers are not truly committed to solving problems through researches since they know what to do but fail to do (Almeida & Bascolo, 2006). For instance, it has been repeatedly pointed to that lack of adequate funding is responsible for the myriads of problems in the public sector because the Nigerian government continues to reduce budgetary allocations to research projects and starve research institutions of necessary funds (Ajao, 2003; ASUU, 2002; Okebukola, 1998; Okon, 2006). Similarly, the extent of awareness of those who conduct most of the researches tend to be less than those who utilize and apply research findings. This could be due to the inability to access the internet for information, institutions' poor and obsolete libraries, and financial constraints in publishing (Maiyaki 2002).

Journals publish research studies in books and monographs for wider usage. but they seem to use whatever is available only to satisfy the conditions for the "Publish-or-Perish" syndrome of academics in Nigeria for promotion to the next rank. The same applied to students who are the direct consumers of published materials, only few were aware of research availability talk less of utilization. They use research outputs only as a compulsory requirement for graduation in Nigerian tertiary institutions. It is commonly observed that volumes of valuable research reports done by academics and students which addressed the problems of Nigerian society are piled up in departmental and faculty

offices/libraries, gathering dust and occupying scarce spaces rather than being widely disseminated and appropriately used in solving problems (Okebukola, (2002) and Adu (2003).

Commenting on findings on research and publication in Nigeria, Okebukola (2002) noted that the highest number of publications by Nigerian academics in international journals between 1962 and 2000 was ten in 1998 which dropped to only one in 2000 and that a number of active local journals was twenty-two in 1998 and had dropped to three in 2000. Adu (2003) had lamented Nigeria's lowest volume of research and publication as compared to some other third world countries despite having the largest number of universities in Sub-Saharan Africa. Results and findings indicated that there is poor dissemination about the availability and utilization of research findings in Nigeria despite awareness of their usefulness in solving problems, indicating that research outputs in Nigeria do not translate into practical development programmes appreciably, and consequently, have not helped in building the Nigerian public sector effectively (Ajakaiye & Falokun, 2010). Walters as cited in (Oyesola 2010) views research as the application of the scientific method to attain or prove new and exciting theories. It is search, invention, discovery and establishment of new knowledge, facts, principles, theories and methods. It is also acknowledged as a systematic and objective search for knowledge, to establish theories and prove the truth of ideas, hypotheses and assumptions. It is a search which requires care and diligence for new facts. It is experimentation to find knowledge, to take existing knowledge and explore ways of applying it to the many problems of life (Oyesola, 2010).

Discourse on the challenges besetting the research programmes in Nigeria will be incomplete if the leadership and administrative/funding lapses are not mentioned considering how these factors have also constrained achievement of set goals for national development. Some stakeholders argue that one of the major problems militating against scientific research in general and social research in particular is the complete absence of a clear-cut philosophy on research policies; a philosophy which should spell out the direction in which Nigeria wants to channel its development efforts. With the frequent policy changes and the attendant inconsistencies, research practitioners are left confused, e.g. before a researcher concludes an evaluative study of a particular programme or policy, it is either discarded or replaced with a different one, sometimes completely

conflicting policy or programme (Ojo, 2003). Political instability has also taken its toll on the educational and research institutes in Nigeria. The academic calendar are repeatedly interrupted by strikes, lockouts, closures and general social upheavals which most often affect the orientation, timing, process and quality of any research activity or research effort (Jimoh, 1998).

The hallmark of well thought out research initiatives and development agenda with high capacity, expected outcomes of a functional research and development initiatives includes equipping the people with the needed capacity with which they need to carry out their economic activities with appreciable degree of proficiency for the attainment of maximum output that enhances the people with the skills and competences needed to effectively harness and utilize the potentials found in one's environment. Nigeria as a case study is evidence of the fact that it is a nation highly populated with potentials and research experts but with inadequate competence to translate these potentials into socio-economic transformations of the nation. One factor for the sluggish growth rate in research and development is that a conducive research environment is not yet available in Nigeria. A conducive environment is needed for maximum utilization of research which requires adequate infrastructure, trained manpower, institutional capacity, and adequate financial support. It also involves motivating the entire population to adopt a scientific culture as a pattern of life. These and other factors call for the urgent attention of research practitioners and policy makers in Nigeria (Jimoh, 1998).

Another critical factor hindering the desired breakthrough in science and technology alongside improper appointment of persons to positions of authority is the non-utilization of the services of well-trained personnel leading to brain-drain by Nigerian scientists. These most often leave the country in search of greener pasture or are roaming the street/idle or work in organizations where their scientific prowess are not useful (Yagboyaju, 2010). Research, and indeed research of all kinds, is as old as man but over the years the approach or method(s) employed in carrying out research activities have changed (Ojo, 2003). The need to carry out investigations and evolve new theories is one of the most fundamental functions of the intelligentsia in the society. Similarly, the place of such research activities in the developmental efforts of any society has also been recognized. This explains why special attention has been paid to research and documentation by countries that have been eager to develop technologically. For instance,

according to Nkwi (1992), following the Meiji Restoration in 1968, the Emperor of Japan was required to take five oaths, one of which stated that "knowledge will be sought and acquired from any source with all the means at our disposal, for the greatness and security of Japan". Today, Japan is a great and powerful industrial nation (Jimoh, 1998). A review of Nigeria's economic development from 2000 to date revealed that the economic policies and development strategies have failed to provide an enabling environment that could diversify the economy exacerbating problems and under-utilization of resources have continued to be the order of the day (Fakiyesi & Ajakaiye, 2009).

In the light of Nigeria's current economic problems, Dauda (2010); Odia & Omofonmwan (2007; 2010) were of the opinion that research development should be given utmost priority in a bid to enhance sustainable economic growth and development. It is apparent that capacity building through investment in human capital, particularly education and research can enhance economic growth, alleviate poverty and protect the Nigerian economy from further distortion and that there is need to critically examine the relationship between investment in research, with a view to deriving implications for policy direction (Dauda 2010). Lawal & Oluwatoyin (2011) noted that development in research is critical and essential to the sustenance and growth of any nation. Different sectors must intensively develop research programmes where expenditure may be created independently towards research efforts and undertaken an autonomous budgetary provisions so that they can receive funding directly from supporting agencies and may enter into their own contractual arrangements with a single shareholder and operate independent research centres, departments (UNESCO 2010).

The growing evidence on the role and importance of research in the development process has made social sector investment an important component of national strategies for growth and development. In Nigeria, in terms of budget estimates, the ratio of public expenditure on social and community services has not been encouraging (UNDP, 2003). Orbach (2001) observed that university serves as a broker between research and development. The university could be the best avenue to serve the public by provoking public debates with unbiased research results and that a nation's level of development is a function of its research initiative structure. A nation's pace of development is determined by its level of research funding. A nation's scientific and technological

advancement is determined by its level of investment on research and development (Akinwowo, 1971, Ake, 1979, Ajakaiye & Roberts, 1995, 1997) respectively.

In an interview in 2010 somebody opined that policies in the country are hardly research based, while many research outputs are merely ‘hit and run’ as they lack strong evidence of rigour. Such outcomes complicate the confusion and uncertainties that often typify policy conception in the country. Similarly, several leading studies, including Akinwowo (1971), Ake (1979), Ajakaiye & Roberts (1995, 1997) and Ajakaiye & Falokun (20110), speculated that social scientists, in particular, have been confronted by the problem of relevance of their research outputs. Many of such researchers who seem unconcerned with the policy implications of their work, focus more on their ‘own interests, rather to basic understanding of issues.’ For them, and in the words of Nzuki, et al. (20114), research has become ‘an industry in itself, working ‘independently in some cases. This implies lack of confidence in local research findings or lack of political will on the part of policy-makers and authorities to develop a credible agenda which recognizes local contents for local problems. Hirschman (in Sambo, 19999:305) explained ‘introduction of policy solutions from elsewhere’, while Ake (19881) placed the problem in the context of post-colonial societies that were still largely economically dependent on their colonial masters, political independence notwithstanding.

A report by the Department for International Development (DFID) in 20007 accentuated lack of political will and limited political value of research in the policy process. From a broader perspective, according to Myrdal (19990), it is related to the problems of ‘soft states’ related personal rule, gross social indiscipline, corruption, capricious enforcement of the law and general abuse of power and privileges and that policy inputs are also selected arbitrarily such that research institutes being used as mouthpieces of the government in power, instead of being critical of government policies which has the proclivity to limit the capacities and resources of these institutions to conduct proper researches. Suffice to say that these challenges are without prejudice to regime types, more prevalent under military dispensations for obvious reasons that are connected to personal rule. For example, it was common under successive military regimes in the country to recognize research units of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) with leading research institutes abandoned and denied required funding. In studies conducted by Adamolekun (19883), Ayo (19888) and Usman (2010),

many of the researches by the MDAs suffered a lack of technical skills because they were mostly conducted by military administrator; e.g. SAP that the Babangida regime promoted, the Vision 20110 by the Abacha military regime of 19993–19998.

Research enlightenment and exposure to research findings have been neglected in reinforcing policy inconsistency and socio-political and economic underdevelopment in Nigeria. The country has a poor culture in this regard; people hardly understand why the most informed should represent them during policy formulation. Nigeria's encounter with the development conundrum can hardly be separated from lack of knowledge-driven political representation and governance. In a general perspective, funding was critical factor that was often denied the institutes. Inadequate funding for any human development programme is not only inimical, but portends greater danger when it involves research, this largely accounts for the general demonization and demoralization for researchers in many research institutes in the country. Even for Nigerian Institute for Social and Economic Research (NISER) that was often seen as Nigeria's think tank in terms of policy research and other prominent research institutes that are under direct supervision of the National Planning Commission, inadequate funding was a problem. In most cases, funding are accessed from non-governmental organisations, especially from outside the country, but is most often incommensurate with the amount of research the country requires (NISER, 2010).

It is even more worrisome according to Kew (2004) because most of the external funding comes from the same sources such as 'Ford Foundation, British Council, USIS and Swedish NGO Foundation' which invariably tend to promote unhealthy rivalry rather than competition among the recipient institutes as they seek access to such research funds though emphasis is placed on the criticality of the cooperation with foreign agencies, such as the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), United Nations (UN) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), because these agencies require reputable researchers that can meet their research needs in connection with their activities in Nigeria (NISER, 2010).

Importance of Research

The importance of research especially for development cannot be overemphasized. Researchers have worked hard and essentially because the enabling

environment was created for them. From the discussion so far, we can therefore enumerate the importance and role of research as follows:

- a. Research makes an original contribution to advance the existing stock of knowledge, by which societies and economies can become better, more prosperous and more fulfilled.
- b. Research fosters the growth of logical reasoning and critical thinking in the society.
- c. Research is very important to government, business and industry, civil society and economy as a whole. Social and economic progress depends to a large extent on the quality and utilization of research evidence by government, policymakers, industrialists, businesspeople and social groups.
- d. Research provides the evidence bases for government social, economic and development policies. Evidence from research (results, conclusions and recommendations) gives valuable guide and insights to policy makers, technocrats and development programme planners. Sound policies are grounded in sound research. For government economic and social policies to be well formulated, they must rely on sound research evidence.
- e. Research helps to evaluate alternative policy options, and fosters the emergence of superior policy options. Through research, policy makers and technocrats obtain sets of facts and figures necessary to assess competing policy options.
- f. Research helps in solving operational and planning problems in business, government, and industry. Business decisions benefit largely from operations research, market research and motivational research. Operations research concerns the use of mathematical, logical and analytical techniques in solving the business objectives/problems of optimization – cost minimization and profit maximization. Motivational research relates to human behaviour towards consumption and products and occurrences of some phenomena. Market research contributes in identifying policies for purchasing, production and sales.
- g. Research also helps to satisfy the intellectual yearnings of man, for better understanding of social phenomena and economic relationships and processes (Eboh, 2009).

Chukwuemeka, (2005) further outlines the significance and importance of research thus:

- a. To gather, present and analyze data
- b. To establish reliability and validity of theoretical postulations
- c. To add to our knowledge and social regularities
- d. Contributes to building of theories
- e. Helps us to know what we do not know before
- f. Provides researchers training in problem solving as well as in leadership roles
- g. It enhances data bank, which helps in planning and development
- h. Research helps to train students for research related jobs with the academic profession (Chukwuemeka, 2005)

Challenges of Research in Nigeria

There is a casual relationship between research and development. Research is a tool for enhancing socio-economic and human capital development. Nigeria is greatly endowed with both human and mineral resources; the greatest investment any nation can make is in the development of her human capital. Research as the process of intensive and extensive search for solutions to problems in the society can be used to find out the extent to which professionals, skilled and semi-skilled workforce are available in the various sectors of a country's economy. The more research efforts are encouraged, the more the country is better able to harness her human capital potentials. The usefulness of research for the promotion of human capital development in Nigeria is beset with many challenges, these include:

- a. **Implementation of Research Results:** The findings of research are hardly implemented. The conservation outlook on the part of the executive and administrative set up in the country account for the inability to implement research results in Nigeria. Well-researched works are most often left lying dormant in the University library shelves and research centers. This is not good for our country's development.
- b. **Reliability and Validity of Data:** One of the greatest problems facing scientific research in Nigeria is lack of reliable statistical data. There is no easy access to reliable data. Government officials are always sensitive to official matters,

especially those that border on the security of the government. They deliberately obstruct the publication of empirical data about the government and its activities. This problem is more pronounced in dictatorial regimes while in some other cases, governments often publish false statistics for political, economic, social or financial reasons. Coupled with the above is scarcity of records: Nigeria like other developing countries lacks adequate statistics due to the very poor process of documentation. As a result of this, many research programmes in Nigeria mostly fail.

- c. **Influence of Values:** Science assumes value neutrality but most researches in Nigeria involve value questions. Issues that border on interest, authoritative allocation of values invariably tend to introduce bias; even researchers themselves have their own values (interests) which to some extent affect the result of their research.
- d. **Illiteracy:** Illiteracy remains the most serious problem facing citizens. There is a relatively high percentage of illiteracy among the Nigerian population. According to available statistics the percentage of illiteracy in Nigeria as at December 2013 was put at 51% (Eze, 2014). Most of the illiterate populations are left out of research samples because of the difficulty of obtaining relevant data from them. Even when they are interviewed in the language they could understand, they still exhibit an apparent inability to supply needed information. They are at times suspicious and reluctant to furnish information that might change their way of life. Illiteracy has restrictively and infinitively made research more difficult. Most empirical researches require the ability to read in order to answer accurately the questionnaire. Inability to read and write makes mail survey difficult. Ukwuije (2003), & Amadi (2003) also identified illiteracy, attitude of government, individuals and significant others towards research findings, secrecy of information, scarcity of records, as problems of research in Nigeria.
- e. **Secrecy:** (Osuala, 2000) argue that Nigeria tends to have a special liking for secrecy. Even in government ministries, information that otherwise would be for public consumption is considered “secret.” Individuals dislike any activity that appears as “nosing around” or trying to probe them. There is resentment for such questions as: Do you work? Where is your wife? What is your salary level? The

prejudices against these types of questions from one whose intentions are not very clear are translated into prejudice for research as a whole.

- f. Fund:** Governments do not budget adequate fund for research activities. Also the university lecturers and those who work in research institutions are not well remunerated. Most governments think that funds allocated to research component of the economy are wasted funds and therefore they do not allocate adequate funds for research activities. Government prefers to vote huge sums of money to maintain security and payment of salaries and benefits to political office holders and assembly men (Asakitikpi, 2006). Research efforts in the public sectors of the economy hardly attract adequate government funding. There is a general lack of commitment by government at all levels to the effect that researchers are not given adequate financial support. Researches carried out by professionals and associations are usually frustrated due to lack of funds. The annual government budget on education is not adequate, let alone provision of research grants to researchers and research institutes. This has negatively affected the development of the human capital in Nigeria (Sekhri, 20009).
- g. Lack of Equipment, Facilities and Materials:** In Nigeria, the necessary equipment, facilities and materials needed for a meaningful research are either lacking or grossly inadequate. This is particularly the case in sciences where teachers and lecturers complain seriously of lack of science equipment to carry out their experiments. This has contributed to low human capital development in the sciences which is the bedrock of any technological advancement of any country. Also current journals, periodicals and textbooks are difficult to get in the libraries.
- h. Poor Communication Network:** The communication network in the country is still far from being well developed. The research worker has to cover hundreds of kilometers in search of relevant research data. This problem is compounded by lack of effective and efficient transport systems
- i. Lack of Legal Provision:** There is need for the provision of legal framework in research. Dearth of legal provisions for personal and public considerations constitutes constraints on research in Nigeria. The staff/personnel in educational institutions, field workers and researchers need legal directions and protection.

- j. Unattractive Working Conditions for Research Workers:** The pitiable conditions under which research workers operate is another problem that militates against research development in Nigeria. Research workers are not well paid and they lack incentives on the job. Both those who reside in official government quarters and those that live inside the town are faced with catalogue of problems ranging from shortage of water supply, epileptic power supply, poor transportation system to family problems. All these problems serve as potent sources of distractions to the best brains. Given these problems the research workers in Nigeria will not be able to perform like their counterparts in the developed countries where the conditions are very conducive to research work.
- k. Lack of Awareness:** There is general ignorance with regard to the importance of research in a developing country like Nigeria. This lack of awareness has led to research workers not enjoying the desired maximum co-operation from their respondents during field study and data collection. Observation shows that certain personalities in high positions in public and private sectors, hardly volunteer information to research workers. This situation no doubt impacts negatively on the research workers and research results as well as human capital development.

Summary

From the study, it has been established that research requires both in concrete and abstract terms, viable and implementable policies. Policy-makers are bestowed with power either by the society as a whole or by a group of people in society to make critical decisions that are accepted and binding on the entire members of the society as long as they act within the limits of their roles. Research findings become a compelling policy input due to the ever-increasing complex nature of man and his relationship with environment, as well as societal regeneration, which is a product of this relationship. Research-based policies are often not popular in Nigeria (Ajakaiye & Falokun 2010). What better use could be made of research in the policy process? Odia & Omofonmwan, (2007) said a nation's degree of progress is a function of its research administrative efficiency. Findings imply that the predicaments confronting Nigeria's tertiary/research institutions are emanating from administrative deficiencies such as moral and economic corruption. Administrative challenges in research studies led to underutilization of

sources for renewable economic development. Therefore, there is the need for government to expand its role by utilizing the knowledge, expertise, and resources at their disposal for the betterment of the society. A nation's pace of development is determined by its level of research funding. The implications of poor funding of research often lead to inadequate outcomes or complete failure of research findings. Many were of the view that a nation's scientific and technological advancement is determined by its level of investment on research which was one factor responsible for non-availability of accurate data in the country due to lack of interest and funding of research projects.

This study ascertained that Nigeria is yet to appreciate research findings. While it is true that the country has the capacity to conduct research, there is no interest and lacks funding and funding is a major barrier to successful research because it is a very expensive venture. Many held that the difference between Nigeria's research institutions and those in other countries is that, while the ones here rely majorly on subventions from government, the later relies majorly on royalties from their inventions with patent right; while the institutes/units' heads are appointed on the basis of creativity and prudence and task orientated set of persons, the attainment of such headship positions in Nigeria is majorly determined by political lobbying prowess of those who occupy them.

Government must evolve friendly policies to encourage and empower existing and would be researchers and put in place an innovation support fund to strengthen the will and capability of innovators to remove fears by experimenters of losing their resources should their invention fail. A system integration strategy must be developed by universities, polytechnics, research institutions and network on ideas, innovations/inventions because performance and productivity do not come by accident but through dedication, hard work, and commitment. Technological advancement is a critical factor for socio-economic progress. Researchers need to be more adaptable and more focused and open-minded because accountability is the best way to demonstrate responsiveness to the public, and a functional role is expected from governing boards, the need for commitment and collaboration through partnerships is necessary.

In Nigeria there is poor synergy between universities and research institutes, a missing link hampering the goal of research development, investment by the government, corporate organizations and individuals in research activities and enforcement of functional administrative principles will increase accessibility to basic research and

production of new ideas and knowledge, providing opportunities for job opportunities through training and retraining for researchers to facilitate rapid national development.

Conclusion

From the foregoing discourse, it would be safe to conclude that Nigeria lacks the capacity to engage in serious research and development activities. Research findings and available evidence across the nation have shown that Nigeria has poor research records. The interconnections between research and its findings as well as the underperformance in societies with obvious research–policy gaps tend to inhibit developmental progress. Research is a tool for human capital development, while research is the process of arriving at dependable solutions to problems through planned and systematic collection, analysis and interpretation of data, research and its outcomes in Nigeria are faced with enormous challenges; these challenges include: inadequate funding; lack of equipment facilities and material, lack of awareness, lack of implementation of research results. To meet these challenges there is the need for a far-reaching research reforms in policies and programmes to bring about greater increase in research orientation.

Nigeria has poor records of research and development activities. The few research efforts are public sector driven; the whole of the organized private sector (OPS) of the nation's economy has insignificant research programmes. The existing research institutes are poorly funded and so need better funding and enabling environment to accomplish their mandates. This paper hopes that Nigeria would find reason to adopt research findings appreciably in solving the myriads of problems of insecurity in form of insurgency and terrorism, kidnapping, banditry, secessionist agitations, social, economic and political instability and many other forms of social vices threatening the corporate existence of the country. By and large, this paper submits that the following recommendations, if meticulously followed and implemented, will assist the country to attain the highest level of greatness.

Recommendations

Research findings should be made known to the general public. Research findings should be made available for use in solving the human problems that militate against sustainable national development by opening avenues for research dissemination like

“research-bank” akin to a blood bank in hospitals. The federal government must consider the establishment of Research and Development Commission. Research Development Commission would help to map out the research and development requirements of the nation; coordinate all the research initiatives in the public and private sectors of the economy; and encourage active participation in funding research projects. Efficient and functional infrastructures must be provided. These are critical to the success of all our national research and development efforts. Thus, it is important to address the following. physical infrastructure such as water, transportation, communication, power generation and information network are key in achieving the foregoing.

Infrastructure for scientific research, such as equipment, instruments, chemicals, facilities are needed and should be provided, etc. The facilities in the research institutes should be refurbished or replaced with modern functional ones. Efforts should be made to ensure resource sharing and adequate maintenance of the available facilities, and infrastructure for education and training facilities for teaching science, engineering and technology. There is need to give relevant training to our graduates so as to prepare them for the problems of society that they would be expected to tackle after graduation, (Abubakar, 2002). Commercialization of Research Outputs: Research findings will not have meaning to people until these research outcomes reach the market place (Ogwo 2002).

Scholarship and Generous Bursary Awards: Scholarships should be awarded to students of science subjects, engineering, technology and those generally interested in undertaking research projects. This can be achieved by putting in place incentives (i.e. monetary, national honours, etc.) for individuals, corporations, institutes or universities for technological breakthroughs or innovations. Foreign Technology: The country must develop the capability to acquire, adapt, modify and improve on foreign technology (Onuoha, 2012). No country willingly transfers its technology. It is a property right which must be jealously safeguarded.

Emphasis on clear policy research implication: Government research institutions, as well as tertiary training and learning centres, especially those classified as think tanks in Nigeria, must emphasize research results with clear policy implications for government actions or future actions. This will improve government capacity to recognize and absorb research findings

Budgetary and Adequate Funding of Researches and Research Institutions: Inadequate budgetary allocations and, worse still, budgetary releases without cash backing have for long crippled research efforts, and this must be effectively addressed for improved results and impact. In addition, donor-driven researches must be managed in accordance with best practices.

Timeliness and priority of demand-driven research: If research findings are to influence policy, then they must do so at the appropriate time and must be driven by demand. The relevance of demand-driven research is in its capacity to remove the problems of lack of awareness among politicians and bureaucrats concerning the existence of policy-relevant research. In essence, rather than creating parallel research groups, Nigeria's think tanks should be challenged from time to time and be required to make the necessary input regarding policy questions that confront the government through, quality time being devoted to thinking ahead.

Collaborative Efforts: Research centres must collaborate with others in monitoring and evaluating policies for realizing economic inclusion, social development, political participation, democracy and trust building for effective governance and decision-making. Efforts must be geared towards sustainable collaborative and exchange programmes and relationships between Nigerian researchers and scientists and their counterparts in the newly developed and advanced countries.

Addressing the disconnection between policy team and society: Government must ensure that both researchers and policy-makers are vitally connected to the society for which the research findings and subsequent policies are intended. This is the basis for research and research outcomes is as good as its applicability. Civil society organizations must play significant role in research culturally related goal by improving techniques for communication and dissemination of research result. The adequacy of research infrastructure, including funding must be combined to improve communication and disseminating research results.

Financial Provisions: There should be adequate financial provision, particularly by all arms of government for researchers. Government at all levels should provide research grants to researchers in institutions of higher learning where bulk of researches is being carried out every year.

Equipment: There is need for adequate provision of special equipment, facilities and materials needed for meaningful research. Science equipment for experiments in the science should be provided. Training: There is need for extensive programme and staff training for researchers. This can be done through frequent seminars, conferences and workshops. Awareness: There is need for effective public awareness on the benefit and contributions of research to national development. Legislation: There must be legislation to back up policies on research development and efforts. Government should go beyond policy statements and come out with effective document that can promote implementations of research findings. Reforms: There should be radical and far reaching reforms in educational policies and programmes of the country to meet the required research demands and put in place and implement policies and programmes to ensure that school curricula at all levels are functional, relevant, are matched to the resources and needs of the nations

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