





Research Article

An Evaluation of the Innovative Funding Models on Effective Administration of Secondary Schools in Imo State, Nigeria

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Abstract

There is room for innovations at every given point in time including in the financial management of educational institutions. Innovative funding models are contemporary funding models explored and used in effective and efficient financial maintenance of an institution. This institution can be educational, financial, religious, business, and so on. This study examined the influence of innovative funding models on administration of secondary schools in Imo State. Two research questions guided the study while two hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance. Descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. The population for the study was 297 principals which comprised 83 males and 214 females. There was no sampling procedure because the population was manageable. The questionnaire used for data collection was a 15-item structured titled "Innovative Funding Models on Effective Administration of Secondary Schools Questionnaire (IFMEASSQ)". The questionnaire was validated by three research experts, two experts in Educational Management from the Department of Social Science Education and one expert in Measurement and Evaluation unit of Department of Educational Foundations, all from Faculty of Education, Imo State University (IMSU), Owerri. Cronbach Alpha statistic was used to compute the internal consistency of the instrument which yielded .83 and .81 for clusters 1 and 2 with an overall reliability index of .82 which indicates that the instrument was reliable. The research questions were answered using mean and standard deviation while the hypotheses were tested with t-test statistic. The findings of the study showed that community involvement and corporate sponsorships influence the administration of secondary education in Imo State to a great extent. Based on the findings, the study recommended that Imo State government should create attractive policies that would enhance massive participations of individuals and corporate bodies in the funding administration of secondary schools.

Keywords

Innovation, Funding Models, Administration, Community Involvement, Corporate Sponsorships

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Innovative funding model is a funding model that can be explored in the financial management of educational institutions for effectiveness and efficiency. It refers to new and unconventional approaches or strategies for raising funds to support projects, ventures, initiatives, or organizations. These models often deviate from traditional funding methods and involve creative thinking, alternative sources of capital, or novel ways to engage stakeholders. According to Belleflamme, Lambert and Schwienbacher (2014), there are several innovative funding models which include: crowdfunding, impact investing, social impact bonds, donor-advised funds, venture philanthropy, community involvement, peer-to-peer lending and corporate sponsorships. In this study, the researcher focused on community involvement and corporate sponsorships.

Community involvement refers to the active engagement, participation, and collaboration of individuals or groups within a community to contribute to its betterment, development, and well-being. According to Draper and Cohen (2013), community involvement encompasses a wide range of activities, such as volunteering, advocacy, community service, organizing events, and participating in decision-making processes that affect the community. Community involvement is essential for fostering social cohesion, empowering individuals, and driving positive change within communities [22]. Community involvement in secondary school administration refers to the active engagement and participation of community members, parents, organizations, and stakeholders in various aspects of school governance, decision-making, and support. This collaboration is crucial for the overall improvement of educational outcomes and the well-being of students.

Community involvement through corporate sponsorships serves the dual purpose of supporting the community's well-being while promoting the corporation's brand, reputation, and positive engagement with its stakeholders. Corporate sponsorship refers to a business arrangement where a company provides financial or other forms of support to an event, activity, organization, or individual in exchange for promotional benefits or association with the sponsored entity. This support could be in the form of monetary contributions, goods, services, or resources. According to Kotler and Armstrong (2017), corporate sponsorship refers to a strategic partnership or financial support provided by a business entity to an event, activity, organization, or project in exchange for brand visibility and promotional benefits. It involves the contribution of funds, resources, or products by a corporation to enhance its brand image, promote its products or services, and align itself with specific causes or demographics. Corporate sponsorships in secondary schools involve partnerships between schools and businesses or corporations for mutual benefit. These partnerships typically involve financial or in-kind support from the corporation in exchange for various forms of brand exposure and marketing opportunities within the school environment. Corporate sponsorships in secondary schools can

have various impacts on gender dynamics and the overall school environment. Furthermore, another innovative funding model for educational institutions is when the educational institutions establish businesses for the school or make investments that can be yielding dividends from time to time. Proceeds from such investments or businesses can be used in financing the schools activities, payment of staff salaries and benefits, maintenance and sustenance of material resources and so on [12].

Meanwhile, gender is an important variable in this paper. It is the roles, behaviours, activities, expectations, and societal norms that a particular culture or society considers appropriate for men and women in their different nature. Gender encompasses all physical, biological, mental, and behavioural attributes distinguishing between the feminine and masculine individuals [1]. Gender as the social construction of female and male identity, is more than biological differences between men and women [14]. It is also referred to as how those differences have been valued, used, and relied upon to simply classify women and men and to allocate roles and expectations to them [16]. For Aydon (2015), gender is described as the social phenomenon of distinguishing males and females based on a set of identity traits. It is a social, not psychological, or biological construction [3]. On the same note, Ametefe and Ametefe (2017) pinpointed that gender is a social construct that establishes and differentiates status and roles between men and women, particularly in the way they contribute and participate in social, political, and economic activities and are rewarded by the economy and most social institutions. It has been noted that gender is a contextual issue in research generally [14]. The gender of the principal may influence the perception of the school community, especially students, about what leadership looks like which might pose as a challenge [2; 13].

The challenge of funding is eminent in most secondary schools in Nigeria. Imo state is no exception. The researchers express concern about the substantial challenges faced by the secondary education system in Imo State, mirroring the situation in numerous Nigerian states. Specifically, the issues revolve around insufficient funding and ineffective administration. The customary funding approaches often prove insufficient in meeting the diverse requirements and growing needs of secondary schools. The lack of financial resources severely impedes the provision of high-quality education, resulting in inadequate infrastructure, a scarcity of teaching materials, use of unqualified subject teachers to teach various subjects, lack of ICT and ICT accessories in this digital age and constrained extracurricular activities. Given this predicament, it is crucial to delve into innovative funding models, particularly emphasizing community engagement and corporate sponsorships [18; 20; 21]. Consequently, this study evaluated the influence of such innovative funding models on enhancing the administration and management of secondary schools in Imo State.

1.1. Statement of the Problem

There are numerous challenges facing the administration and management of secondary schools in Imo state. Inadequate funding is one of the numerous challenges. In the 21st century, the effective administration of secondary schools in Imo State has faced significant challenges attributed to inadequate financial resources. Traditional funding models, primarily reliant on government allocations and parental contributions, have proven to be insufficient for meeting the evolving needs and demands of modern education. Consequently, the education sector has explored alternative funding models, such as community involvement and corporate sponsorships, as potential solutions to bridge the funding gap. However, the extent and impact of these innovative funding models on the effective administration of secondary schools in Imo State, particularly regarding community involvement and corporate sponsorships, remain poorly understood and warrant thorough evaluation [20]. This study ascertained the influence of innovative funding models on the effective administration of secondary schools in Imo State, with a specific focus on the role of community involvement and corporate sponsorships, to provide insights and recommendations for enhancing educational outcomes and sustainability in secondary schools in Imo State.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the influence of innovative funding models on effective administration of secondary schools in Imo State. Specifically, the study sought to:

1. examine the extent to which community involvement influences the innovative funding models on effective administration of secondary schools in Imo State; and
2. determine the extent to which corporate sponsorships influence innovative funding models on the effective administration of secondary schools in Imo State.

Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study:

1. To what extent does community involvement influence innovative funding models on the effective administration of secondary schools in Imo State?
2. To what extent do corporate sponsorships influence innovative funding models on the effective administration of secondary schools in Imo State?

1.2. Hypotheses

The hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance:

H₀: There is no significant difference between the mean ratings of female and male principals on the extent to which community involvement influences innovative funding models on the effective administration of secondary schools in Imo State.

H₀: There is no significant difference between the mean ratings of female and male principals on the extent to which corporate sponsorships influence innovative funding models on the effective administration of secondary schools in Imo State.

2. Research Method

Descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. Descriptive survey research design is a method centered on collecting data and structuring it systematically to offer a thorough depiction [15]. The study involved a total of 297 principals, with 83 being males and 214 being females. No specific sampling procedure was necessary as the population size was manageable. Data were collected using a structured questionnaire titled "Innovative Funding Models on Effective Administration of Secondary Schools Questionnaire (IFMEASSQ)" consisting of 15 items. The questionnaire's validity was confirmed by three research experts, two experts in Educational Management and one expert in Measurement and Evaluation, all from the Faculty of Education, Imo State University, Owerri. The internal consistency of the instrument was assessed using Cronbach Alpha statistics, resulting in reliability indices of .83 and .81 for clusters 1 and 2 respectively, with an overall reliability index of .82, indicating the instrument's reliability.

Mean and standard deviation were employed to address the research questions, while the hypotheses were assessed using the t-test statistics. However, among the 297 copies of questionnaire distributed to the participants, the researchers, along with two research assistants, retrieved 286 completed copies of questionnaire (79 from male principals and 207 from female principals), resulting in a return rate of 96.30%. The researchers utilized mean and standard deviation to address the research questions, and the hypotheses were tested using the t-test statistics at a significance level of 0.05. In evaluating the mean ratings, each response option was associated with a numerical range based on specific numerical limits: Very Great Extent (VGE) was within the range of 3.50 to 4.00, Great Extent (GE) fell within 2.50 to 3.49, Low Extent (LE) spanned from 1.50 to 2.49, and Very Low Extent (VLE) ranged from 0.00 to 1.49. The assessment of the hypotheses involved examining the significance (sig.) values obtained from the SPSS output. The null hypothesis was upheld if the probability values were greater than 0.05, whereas it was rejected if the probability values were less than 0.05.

3. Results

Research Question 1: To what extent does community involvement influence innovative funding models on the effective administration of secondary schools in Imo State?

Table 1. Mean ratings of female and male principals on the extent to which community involvement influences innovative funding models on the effective administration of secondary schools.

S/N	ITEMS	Female Principals207			Male Principals79		
		\bar{x}	SD	Dec	\bar{x}	SD	Dec
	Community involvement influences the effective administration of secondary schools when they are involved in the following:						
1.	building of classrooms in the schools.	2.50	.95	GE	2.56	.91	GE
2.	building of sick bay.	2.53	.86	GE	2.52	1.01	GE
3.	construction of school libraries.	2.59	.90	GE	2.61	.96	GE
4.	construction of school laboratories.	2.54	.93	GE	2.56	.99	GE
5.	construction of ICT facilities.	2.55	.99	GE	2.59	.77	GE
6.	provision of staff quarters.	2.53	.91	GE	2.60	.89	GE
7.	organization of fundraising activities.	2.61	.99	GE	2.55	.88	GE
8.	provision of school hostels.	2.55	.90	GE	2.58	.94	GE
9.	maintenance of discipline.	2.60	.92	GE	2.53	.91	GE
	Cluster Mean/SD	2.56	.93	GE	2.57	.92	GE

The data presented on Table 1 showed that the female principals' mean ranged from 2.50 to 2.61 while their male counterparts mean ranged from 2.52 to 2.61. In addition, they have cluster means of 2.56 and 2.57 with standard deviations of .93 and .92 respectively. The respondents were generally of the view that community involvement as a funding model

influences the effective administration of secondary schools in Imo State to a great extent.

Research Question 2: To what extent do corporate sponsorships influence innovative funding models on the effective administration of secondary schools in Imo State?

Table 2. Mean ratings of female and male principals on the extent to which corporate sponsorships influence innovative funding models on the effective administration of secondary schools.

S/N	ITEMS	Female Principals207			Male Principals79		
		\bar{x}	SD	Dec	\bar{x}	SD	Dec
	Corporate sponsorships influence the effective administration of secondary schools when they are involved in the following:						
10.	financial support.	2.63	.98	GE	2.58	.94	GE

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11.	scholarship programmes.	2.59	.93	GE	2.63	.98	GE
12.	resource enhancement.	2.55	.90	GE	2.50	.91	GE
13.	staff professional development.	2.60	.99	GE	2.57	.93	GE
14.	influence on curriculum.	2.56	.95	GE	2.59	.96	GE
15.	encouraging community involvement.	2.59	.98	GE	2.58	.99	GE
	Cluster Mean/SD	2.59	.96	GE	2.58	.95	GE

The data presented on Table 2 showed that the female principals' mean ranged from 2.55 to 2.63 while their male counterparts mean ranged from 2.50 to 2.63. In addition, they have cluster means of 2.59 and 2.58 with standard deviations of .96 and .95 respectively. The respondents were generally of the view that corporate sponsorships as funding model influence the effective administration of secondary schools in Imo State to a great extent.

Hypotheses

HO₁: There is no significant difference between the mean ratings of female and male principals on the extent to which community involvement influences innovative funding models on the effective administration of secondary schools in Imo State.

Table 3. Summary of t-test analysis of the mean ratings of female and male principals on the extent to which community involvement influences innovative funding models on the effective administration of secondary schools.

Group	n	\bar{x}	SD	df	p-value	Decision
Female Principals	207	2.56	.93	284	.092	H ₀₁ not rejected
Male Principals	79	2.57	.92			

Data on Table 3 show that at 284 degree of freedom, the p-value was .092 which is greater than .05 level of significance set for this study. This signifies that the null hypothesis was not rejected and, therefore, there was no significant difference between the mean ratings of female and male principals on the extent to which community involvement influ-

ences innovative funding models on the effective administration of secondary schools in Imo State.

HO₂: There is no significant difference between the mean ratings of female and male principals on the extent to which corporate sponsorships influence the effective administration of secondary schools in Imo State.

Table 4. Summary of t-test analysis of the mean ratings of female and male principals on the extent to which corporate sponsorships influence innovative funding models on the effective administration of secondary schools.

Group	n	\bar{x}	SD	df	p-value	Decision
Female Principals	207	2.59	.96	284	.099	H ₀₂ not rejected
Male Principals	79	2.58	.95			

Data on Table 4 show that at 284 degree of freedom, the p-value was .099 which is greater than 0.05 level of significance set for this study. This signifies that the null hypothesis was not rejected and, therefore, there was no significant difference between the mean ratings of female and male principals on the extent to which corporate sponsorships influence

innovative funding models on the effective administration of secondary schools in Imo State.

4. Discussion of Findings

The finding of the study showed that community involvement as a funding model influences the effective administration of secondary schools in Imo State to a great extent. The hypothesis tested showed that there was no significant difference between the mean ratings of female and male principals on the extent to which community involvement influences innovative funding models on the effective administration of secondary schools in Imo State. The findings are in accordance with Bolatito (2022), Ogunbiyi (2018) and Ugwuanyi (2013) who posited that community involvement influences the effective administration of secondary schools. Mezieobi and Mezieobi (2023) have noted that when the school's management involves its catchment or host community in the administrative process, the community ensures that the goals and objectives of the school are achieved including funding. Therefore, the current research is in agreement with the findings because community involvement has proven to be a powerful catalyst in fostering a sense of ownership, shared responsibility, and active participation in the development and management of secondary schools. Local communities, when engaged and empowered, contribute not only financially but also with valuable resources, expertise, and guidance [7]. This involvement helps to bridge gaps, improve infrastructure, and enhance educational programmes, ultimately elevating the standards of secondary education. Furthermore, community involvement also enhances and encourages peaceful coexistence between the schools' stakeholders (principals, teachers, students) and the communities [4; 5].

Also, the finding of the study showed that corporate sponsorships as funding model influences the effective administration of secondary schools in Imo State to a great extent. The hypothesis tested showed that there was no significant difference between the mean ratings of female and male principals on the extent to which corporate sponsorships influence innovative funding models on the effective administration of secondary schools in Imo State. The findings are in line with Bolatito (2022), who posited that corporate sponsorship has a significant influence in the effective administration of secondary schools. It is noteworthy that corporate sponsorships have emerged as vital funding avenues that supplement government resources and community contributions. The involvement of corporate entities through financial aid, in-kind donations, infrastructure development, and skill-based initiatives has significantly bolstered the educational landscape. Corporate partnerships bring in a fresh perspective, modernization, and access to specialized knowledge, thereby enriching the learning environment and equipping students with skills relevant to the evolving workforce. Corporate sponsorships facilitate the human resource and infrastructural development of secondary schools.

5. Conclusion

Innovative funding models are contemporary funding

styles for the improvement of education and achievement of educational goals and objectives. The study has shown the significant impact of innovative funding models on the effective administration of secondary schools in Imo State, particularly emphasizing the critical role of community involvement and corporate sponsorships. The findings underscore the importance of collaborative efforts between the government, local communities, and corporate entities in enhancing the quality of education and overall educational experiences within secondary schools in Imo state. It is imperative for secondary education stakeholders to continue nurturing and expanding these collaborative efforts, fostering a conducive teaching and learning environment that nurtures academic excellence, social responsibility, and a brighter future for the secondary schools' students in particular and students in general of Imo State. By harnessing the potential of innovative funding models and fostering robust partnerships, the government can strive towards an educational system that empowers, enriches, and ensures a prosperous tomorrow for the youth and the community at large. This will also advance the quest for the internationalization of the Nigerian education in no distant time and improve the quality and standard of the Nigerian education at all levels.

6. Recommendations

Based on the findings, the following recommendations were made:

1. The management of secondary schools in Imo state should build cordial rapport and relationships between the schools and their host communities.
2. The Imo state government should create attractive policies that would enhance massive participations of individuals and corporate bodies in the administration of secondary education.
3. Secondary education stakeholders should implement a transparent and accountable financial reporting system that clearly outlines how funds generated from community involvement and corporate organizations are utilized within the school. Provide regular updates to the communities and corporate organizations, showcasing the impact of their contributions and promoting trust and confidence in the funding model.
4. All education stakeholders should be encouraged to get involved in the funding of secondary schools in particular and education in general in Nigeria.
5. Seminars and workshops should be organized by the Imo state government on regular basis for teachers and students that will enlighten them on how to maintain and sustain effective school-community relations in order to attract funding from members of the host communities.

Abbreviations

IMSU: Imo State University, Owerri

Author Contributions

Kelechi Chinemerem Mezieobi: Conceptualization, Validation, Writing - review & editing, Writing - original draft

Juliet Nkonyeasua Ossai: Resources, Supervision, Writing - review & editing

Anashie Anastasia Iwang: Formal Analysis, Investigation, Project administration, Writing - review & editing

Destiny Onyeka Ukor: Methodology, Project administration, Writing - review & editing

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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