

## EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION AS A MEANS OF PROMOTING THE ROLES OF THE FAMILY AND SOCIETY IN EDUCATION IN NIGERIA IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

*Michael Omotayo Dare (Ph.D)*

*Department Of Foundations,  
Federal College of Education, Kano.*

### **Abstract**

The paper examines the concept of the family and society as they relate to educational administration in Nigeria. In addition to the above, the paper also examines the functions of educational administrators and the problems of educational administration in Nigeria. In conclusion, the paper explains strategies that can be employed by educational administrators in promoting the role of the family and the society for result-oriented education project in Nigeria.

### **Introduction**

Education is capital intensive and therefore, requires the cooperative efforts of all stakeholders. The present economic situation in Nigeria and even in the whole world has shown that government alone cannot shoulder the financial responsibility of giving education to all eligible Nigerians. The government of Nigeria in recognition of the importance of collaborative efforts encourages private or community participation in education (NPE, 2004). Community participation in education according to Philipson (2006), will boost and complement governmental efforts in the aspects of funding and provision of educational facilities in all ramifications.

However, researchers like Denga (1990) Awokoya (2000) and Asiwaju (1999) asserted that low community participation in education in the Nigerian

society is largely due to lack of public awareness and the popular opinion that the government has more than enough resources to singularly and independently finance education in Nigeria. It should be mentioned at this juncture that Nigeria has no strong economic base to execute education project to the exclusion of public participation.

The concept of the family as relates to the context of this paper is a unit of the society that includes the father, mother, children/siblings as well as other extended members of the same unit. In the same vein a society is a group of people who live in the same geographical locations, sharing similar culture, traditions, norms and values system. While educational administration has been viewed as a process that involves planning, organizing, coordinating, commanding and controlling of educational programmes to achieve educational goals. It must be

mentioned at this juncture that the achievement of educational goals depend to a large extent on the collaborative efforts of the family and the society.

### **The Functions of Educational Administrators**

The functions which educational administrators are expected to perform for the achievement of educational goals according Olubadewo (1992) include:

- i. Resource and programme planning
- ii. Provision and maintenance of funds and facilities
- iii. Improvement of instructional programmes
- iv. Obtaining and development of personnel and
- v. Student personnel service.

- **Resource Programme Planning:**

School administrators are expected to contribute at different stages in their own capacities to the formulation of plans and policies for specific aspects of the school system. In the formulation of educational programmes and policies, educational administrator is expected to take cognizance of the interest of the family and the society for effective execution

- **Provision and Maintenance of Funds and Facilities :**

This function is usually referred to as school business administration. The school administrators can fulfill this function through careful study of the budgetary system, accounting and effective negotiation with those in authority with the involvement of

members of the family and the society at large.

- **Improvement of Instructional Programmes:**

School programme management is one of the most important functions of the school administrator. The major goal of educational administrator is improvement of teaching and learning opportunities. The school head is therefore expected to work in collaboration with educational supervisors, classroom teachers, students and parents in the selection of appropriate curricular, choice of subjects, textbooks, time-table, teaching methods and methods of evaluating the school and students progress.

- **Obtaining and Development of Personnel:**

This function is sometimes referred to as the school personnel administration. It is the responsibility of a good educational administrator to identify the staff needs of the society in which the school is located as well as the type of personnel needed to meet the needs. In the school system, it is the responsibility of the educational administrator to ensure the employment of the right type of personnel based on the needs of the society and the educational system.

- **Students Personnel Services:**

An effective students service starts from the family which is expected to inculcate the most desirable moral values in the students. The educational administrator is expected to capitalize on the good moral foundation laid by the family to carry out his functions in the

aspects of selection, placement, orientation, guidance and counseling of the students.

### **Problems of educational administration in Nigeria**

Educational administration in Nigeria is saddled with numerous problems. Some of these problems according to Adesina (1969) include: inadequate funding, shortage of professional educational administrators, inadequate educational facilities, political interference and poor conditions of services.

- **Inadequate Funding**

Educational administrators are usually incapacitated by inadequate funding in the performance of their functions. Execution of educational programmes and policy requires adequate provision of fund which is usually inadequate or unavailable.

- **Shortage of Professional Educational Administrators**

Acute shortage of professionally trained educational administrators constitutes a serious problem to educational administration in Nigeria. The resultant effect of this inadequacy is the infiltration of non-professionals into the management of educational institutions in Nigeria. It must be emphasized at this juncture that, professional educational administrators who have the necessary management skills are needed to manage our educational institutions at the various levels.

- **Inadequate Educational Facilities**

Short supply of educational facilities is another serious problem of educational administration in Nigeria. Adequate supply of educational facilities in quantity and quality are required to achieve educational goals in Nigeria.

- **Political Interference:**

Political interference either on the part of the government or influential members of the society is a bane on effective educational administration in Nigeria. Political interference often manifests in the appointment of school heads, students admission, staff employment, promotion and discipline of staff and students.

- **Poor Conditions of Service**

Poor conditions of service of school administrators is another serious problem of educational administration in Nigeria. The welfare package of some school administrators is not as attractive as their counterparts in other similar establishments like the Custom Services, Immigration and Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC).

### **Administrative Strategies for Promoting the Role of the Family and the Society in the Educational Sector**

Educational administrators are personnels who have been specially trained to manage educational institutions and programmes. As rightly mentioned in the introductory aspect of this paper, it has become difficult for government alone to

single-handedly finance education in Nigeria hence the collaborative efforts of the family and members of the society become very indispensable. Below are some of the strategies which educational administrator can employ in promoting the role of the family and society in the achievement of educational goals in Nigeria in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**i) The Role of PTA, Alumni, Social Clubs, Old Boys Association etc**

School administrators should encourage the activities of Parents Teachers Association, Alumni, Social Clubs, old School Boys Association, Women Organizations etc in the provision of financial and material resources for the achievement of educational goals in Nigeria. It is on record that such associations have in the past and present provided discipline, financial and material resources which are essential ingredients for achieving educational goals in the school system.

**ii) The Use of Resource Persons**

Educational Administrators are expected to occasionally invite some prominent members of the society as resource persons to give information on certain topics that are technical in nature inform of lectures. Such arrangement is likely to further strengthen the relationship between the school and members of the society for future engagements.

**iii) Invitation of Parents to School Programmes**

Educational administrators who wish to encourage the role of the family and members of the society in education are expected to invite parents and members of the society to school activities such as the speech and prize giving day, sport activities, debates and social activities of the school. Such school activities will encourage parents and members of the society to donate prizes, money as well as educational facilities to the school for the attainment of educational goals.

**iv) The Use of School Property**

School administrators should allow parents and members of the society to make use of the school facilities such as the school hall, field, and furniture for social activities like coronations of traditional rulers, chiefs, marriage receptions as well as other important meetings. However educational administrators should emphasize the need for caution in the use of these facilities to the users.

**v) Formulation of School Rules and Regulations**

Educational administrators should encourage participation of the parents and students in the formulation of school rules and regulation. It is a well established fact that rules that are jointly formulated are easily implemented by all the parties involved.

**vi) Community Participation:**

It is the responsibility of educational administrators to sensitize members of the community to the need for them to participate actively in financing education as well as the provision of educational facilities. It is on record that members of the community have and can still finance education in the aspects of purchase of school bus, construction of classrooms, sinking of boreholes, purchase of library books and laboratory equipment.

### **Conclusion**

Education is capital intensive which cannot be executed only by the government. Therefore participation by the family and members of the society is very crucial. If they are well sensitized to their role expectation, the family and members of the society can make meaningful contributions to education project in the aspects of providing financial, material and human resources to the Nigerian education system in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

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