



Investigation into Project Abandonment and Implications in Public Universities in North-East, Nigeria

Kingsley Edinoh

edinohkings@gmail.com

Department of Educational Foundations, Faculty of Education
University of Abuja, Nigeria.

ONUBI, Joy Gret Uyo

joyonubi22@gmail.com

Guidance and Counselling Department, Faculty of Education
University of Abuja, Nigeria.

ATOJOKO, Aisha Muhammed

aishaoatojoko22@gmail.com

Department of Educational Foundations, Faculty of Education
University of Abuja, Nigeria.

Abstract:

This study investigated project abandonment and implication in North-East Public Universities in Nigeria. Research design was adopted for the study which was carried out in North East geo-political zone, Nigeria. Two research questions guided the study and one hypothesis were tested at the 0.05 level of significance. From a population of 8764 staff in the 12 public universities in North East, a sample of 90 staff were involved in the study. This was drawn from 12 out public universities in the zone using multistage sampling procedure. One instruments namely Factors Responsible for Project Abandonment Questionnaire (FRPAQ). The internal consistency of the instruments was ascertained using Cronbach Alpha and this yielded reliability coefficients of 0.8 for (FRPAQ). Mean and standard deviation and Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Coefficient were used to answered research questions and test the hypothesis. The study revealed that project poor funding, insecurity challenges, political instability, fall in national revenue, poor monitoring and evaluation, poor project planning, inflation, corruption and incompetent Contractors are the factors responsible for projects abandonment in Public Universities in North-East, Nigeria. The result also indicated that the implication of project abandonment public universities in North East includes; encouragement of cults hideout and activities, contribution to shortage of facilities, increment in completion cost of the project, wastage of resources and delay in universities development. The result also showed that there is a significant relationship between projects abandonment and some public Universities in North-East, Nigeria. Based on these problems identified, the paper hereby recommended the following: the government should increase the funding of public universities and school administrators should ensure the funds are released to the contractors as at when due. The government should direct all anti-corruption agencies to monitor all funds released for capital projects in public universities. The government should prioritize capital projects in universities in case of fall in national revenue, government should provide adequate security in all public universities to guarantee safety of lives and properties.

Keywords: Abandonment, Project, Public University.

Introduction

There are many definitions of the abandonment of projects. According to (Akhanolu et al. 2016) project abandonment is the resultant effect of any development projects that have started at an earlier date but which the construction work for one reason or the other has stopped. (Ihuah and Benebo 2014) viewed the abandonment of development projects as the act of discontinuing any activities or maintenance works on such development projects within a time frame of the contract agreement and with no intention of returning to the development. For (Olalusi and Otunola 2012) abandonment of projects mean an owner is ceasing to provide maintenance and operating services to a building or the loss of an owner's legal right to a building, or the demolition of a building. One standard feature in the above definition is the act of stopping or discontinuing. Project abandonment is the official and technical stopping of work on ongoing projects due to some challenges. Project abandonment is a situation whereby the project did not realize its goals as planned.

Project abandonment is a major problem in Nigeria. It has been observed that every cities in Nigeria include the federal capital territory are many abandoned projects of infrastructural development. A 2012 report indicated that about 12,000 federal government projects had been abandoned between 1962 and 2012. Another report by Chartered Institute of Project Management in 2017 suggested that abandoned projects concerning existing structures alone amount to over ₦12 trillion—that is 10% of the economy.

(Thisday 2022) report that the large quantum of uncompleted projects in Nigeria was estimated to cost N12 trillion as of August 2021. The Nigerian Institute of Quantity Surveyors who gave the estimate also hinted that there are about 56,000 abandoned projects in Nigeria. (Ojo, 2017) put the costs of abandoned projects at ₦17 trillion, based on an investigation during the Jonathan administration. There are about 4,000 uncompleted or abandoned projects belonging to the Federal Government with an estimated cost of ₦300 billion which will take 30 years to complete at the present execution capacity of the government. Abandonment has been left without adequate attention for too long which is now having a multiplier effect on the construction industry in particular and the national economy as a whole

(Ogunode & Murtala 2022) acknowledged that one of the major problems facing the public universities in Nigeria is the problem of abandoned project. The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calabar affirmed this when observed the high rate of abandoned projects in the institution in University of Calabar. The VC, Prof. Florence Obi, noted that the institution has a bad record of being one of the universities with the highest number of Federal Government funded abandoned projects in the country. She said that building projects like the Pavilion One, Two, and Three, which are now funded by TETFUND, and the Faculty of Law, at the verge of completion, were built many years ago and left uncompleted by previous administrations (Adelabu, 2019).

(Ojo 2017) also observed that a committee on June 2, 2011 submitted a report to the ex-President. The report showed an inventory of 11,886 ongoing projects (as of then) with N7.78tn estimated cost out of which the Federal Government paid N2.696tn to contractors leaving a balance of about N5tn. Volume one of the report shows that of the geopolitical zones, the South-South zone has 1,755 projects amounting to N2.1tn followed by the North-Central with N630bn with 1,844 projects. The last in ranking is the North-East zone with 466 projects amounting to N98bn. These infrastructure facilities abandoned included those sited in educational institutions like federal colleges, polytechnics, Colleges of Education and Universities.

There are many investigations on causes of project abandonment across the globe. For instance, in South Africa, (John 2012) did a study on construction works in some cities in South Africa and listed poor budgetary allocation, corruption, death of contractor and poor planning as causes of project abandonment. In Ghana, (Musa 2014) identified poor funding, faculty building plans, inflation, unqualified project managers and contractors, variation of project scope, death of client or contractor and land dispute as factors responsible for project abandonment in Ghana.

In Nigeria (Shinkafi, undated) did a study that evaluated the causes, negative effect on economy as well as possible solutions of projects abandonment in Nigeria and its impact on the immediate community. Data was collected through personal interview, questionnaire administration and reviewing of existing literature and journals which formed the data base and were analyzed by the relative important index (R.I.I.). The result obtained from this study revealed the causes of project abandonment as lack of project planning, inadequate project funding, price inflation, wrong estimate, faulty design, incompetent project managers and contractors, variation of project scope, death of client or contractor, delay payment and political factor. Economic effects of project abandonment include: waste of resources, decrease in employment opportunities, shortage of revenue to the government, disappointment of the users and difficulty in attracting foreign loans and investors. Also, (Olusegun & Michael, 2011) carried out a study that determined the causes and effects of abandonment of projects in Nigeria. The result from the study showed the causes of project abandonment as inadequate project planning; inadequate fund, inflation, bankruptcy of Contractor, variation of project scope, political factor, death of client, incompetent project manager, wrong estimate, inadequate cost control, faulty design and delayed payment. Effects of project abandonment from the study are disappointment of the populace/users, low living standard, wastage of resources, reduction in employment opportunities, and decrease in tempo of construction activities, decrease in revenue accruing to government, difficulty in attracting foreign loans.

Statement of Problem

The ultimate goal of university education is to develop the individual's mental capacity and character for socio-economic and technological advancement and useful living within the society. These objectives place enormous task and burden on the university manager to ensure all human and materials resources are available to realize the set objectives of the universities. One of the crucial materials resources needed for the survival of the university system is the availability of adequate infrastructure facilities. It has been observed that many higher institutions especially the universities in Nigeria and in the North East geo-political zone particularly are facing the problem of infrastructure facilities challenges. Project abandonment have been identified by scholars as of major reasons for shortage of facilities because many infrastructure facilities projects started by the government or private institutions have been abandoned due to many factors. The abandonment of these projects in the various institutions may likely hamper the development of the universities in the Zone. Based on this, this study is aimed to investigate project abandonment and implication in Public Universities in North-East, Nigeria.

Research Objectives

The investigated project abandonment and implication in Public Universities in North-East, Nigeria. The specific objectives are to:

1. to find out the factors responsible projects abandonment in Public Universities in North-East, Nigeria;
2. to investigate the implication of projects abandonment in Public Universities in North-East ,Nigeria.

Research Questions

The following have been formulated as the research questions:

1. What is the factors responsible projects abandonment in Public Universities in North-East, Nigeria?;
2. What is the implication of projects abandonment in Public Universities in North-East ,Nigeria?

Research Hypothesis

Ho1: There no significant relationship between projects abandonment and some public Universities in North-East, Nigeria.

Methodology

Research design was adopted for the study which was carried out in North East geo-political zone, Nigeria. Two research questions guided the study and one hypothesis were tested at the 0.05 level of significance. From a population of 754 staff (Work department) in the 12 public universities in North East, a sample of 90 staff were involved in the study.

This was drawn from 12 out public universities in the zone using multistage sampling procedure. One instruments namely Factors Responsible for Project Abandonment Questionnaire (FRPAQ), validated by two experts were used for data collection. The internal consistency of the instruments was ascertained using Cronbach Alpha and this yielded reliability coefficients of 0.8 for (FRPAQ). In line with Nworgu (2015) who stated that if the correlation co-efficient obtained for an instrument is up to 0.70 and above,

the instrument should be considered good enough to be used for a study, the instruments were deemed reliable. Direct administration method was used for data collection. Mean and standard deviation and Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Coefficient were used to answered research questions and test the hypothesis. The correlation coefficients for the research questions were interpreted using Best and Khan (2016). On the other hand, decisions relating to the test of hypotheses were made using the P-value. Thus, when the P- value is less than the level of significance, in this case 0.05, the null hypothesis was rejected, otherwise, it was not rejected.

Data Analysis

Table 1: Factors Responsible for Projects Abandonment in Public Universities in North-East, Nigeria

S/N	Variables	Mean	SD	Decision
1	Project poor funding,	3.18	0.35	Agreed
2	Insecurity challenges	3.25	0.39	Agreed
3	Political instability,	3.37	0.46	Agreed
4	Fall in national revenue,	2.99	0.27	Agreed
5	Poor monitoring and evaluation	3.05	0.29	Agreed
6	Poor project planning	3.40	0.56	Agreed
7	Inflation	3.55	0.61	Agreed
8	Corruption.	3.22	0.40	Agreed
9	Incompetent Contractors	3.47	0.52	Agreed
	Total Mean	3.67		

The result collected from table one showed item 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 had a mean scores of 3.18, 3,25, 3.37, 2.99, 3.05, 3.40, 3.55 and 3.22 with a total mean score of 3.67 which is greater than the cut-off point of 2.50. This implies that respondents agreed that project poor funding, insecurity challenges, political instability, fall in national revenue, poor monitoring and evaluation, poor project planning, inflation, corruptionand Incompetent Contractors are the factors responsible for projects abandonment in Public Universities in North-East, Nigeria.

Table 2: Implication of Projects Abandonment in Public Universities in North-East, Nigeria

S/N	Variables	Mean	SD	Decision
1	Promote cult hideout and activities	3.65	0.42	Agreed
2	Contribution to shortage of facilities	3.29	0.36	Agreed
3	Increment in completion cost of the project	3.60	0.40	Agreed
4	Wastage of resources	3.17	0.29	Agreed
5	Delay University Development	3.34	0.32	Agreed
	Total Mean	3.75		

The result on table two indicated that item 1, 2, 3,4 and 5 had mean scores of 3.65, 3.29, 3.60, 3.17 and 3.34 with a total mean score of 3.75 which is higher than the cut-off point of 2.50. This result implies that respondents are in agreement that the implication of project abandonment includes; encouragement of cult hideout and activities, contribution to shortage of facilities, increment in completion cost of the project, wastage of resources and delay in universities development in the zone.

Test of Hypothesis

Table 3: Ho1: There no significant relationship between projects abandonment and some public Universities in North-East, Nigeria.

Source of Variation	N	Project abandonment	Public Universities in North-East,	P-value	Remarks
Projects abandonment	90	1.00	1.00	.000	Significant
Public Universities in North-East,	90	0.26	0.26		

The data analysis in Table 3 shows that there is a significant relationship between projects abandonment and some public Universities in North-East, Nigeria. The second null hypothesis was therefore rejected.

Discussion of Findings

The result obtained after analysis from table 1.1 revealed that project poor funding, insecurity challenges, political instability, fall in national revenue, poor monitoring and evaluation, poor project planning, inflation, corruption and Incompetent Contractors are the factors responsible for projects abandonment in Public Universities in North-East, Nigeria. This result is in line with the discovered of (Ogunode & Murtala 2022; Ihuah, & Benebo, 2014;Mac-Barango,2017) who concluded that poor funding, corruption, inflation, fall in national revenue, insecurity, political instability, weak school administrators, poor monitoring and evaluation, poor planning and lack of Continuation in Policies. Also, (Olusegun & Michael, 2011) discovered that the causes of project abandonment as inadequate project planning; inadequate fund, inflation, bankruptcy of Contractor, variation of project scope, political factor, death of client, incompetent project manager, wrong estimate, inadequate cost control, faulty design and delayed payment.

The result from table 2 disclosed that the implication of project abandonment public universities in North East includes; encouragement of cult hideout and activities, contribution to shortage of facilities, increment in completion cost of the project, wastage of resources and delay in universities development in the zone. This result affirmed the findings of (Ogunode 2022 et al; Akhanolu, Ikpetan, & Chibuzor, 2016; Hoe, 2013) they concluded that shortage of infrastructure facilities, over crowdedness of lecture halls, strikes actions, poor teaching implementation, poor research programme implementation, an unconducive working environment and poor international ranking are effects of project abandonment in the Nigerian tertiary institutions. Also, (Olusegun & Michael, 2011) concluded that effects of project abandonment from the study are disappointment of the populace/users, low living standard, wastage of resources, reduction in employment opportunities, and decrease in tempo of construction activities, decrease in revenue accruing to government, difficulty in attracting foreign loans.

Conclusion Recommendations

This paper investigated project abandonment and implication in Public Universities in North-East, Nigeria with specific objectives that are anchored on to find out the factors responsible projects abandonment in Public Universities in North-East, Nigeria; and to investigate the implication of projects abandonment in Public Universities in North-East, Nigeria.

The collected from the study revealed that project poor funding, insecurity challenges, political instability, fall in national revenue, poor monitoring and evaluation, poor project planning, inflation, corruption and Incompetent Contractors are the factors responsible for projects abandonment in Public Universities in North-East, Nigeria. The result also indicated that the implication of project abandonment public universities in North East includes; encouragement of cult hideout and activities, contribution to shortage of facilities, increment in completion cost of the project, wastage of resources and delay in

universities development in the zone. The data analyzed also showed that there is a significant relationship between projects abandonment and some public Universities in North-East, Nigeria.

Based on these problems identified, the paper hereby recommended the following: the government should increase the funding of public universities and school administrators should ensure the funds are released to the contractors as at when due. The government should direct all anti-corruption agencies to monitor all funds released for capital projects in public universities. The government should prioritize capital projects in universities in case of fall in national revenue, government should provide adequate security in all public universities to guarantee safety of lives and properties. Government should appoint qualified school administrators, set up an effective monitoring and evaluation team, ensure effective project planning and develop the political will to continue with continue all policies within the universities for sustainable infrastructural facilities" development.

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