

**Public-Private Partnership as a Panacea for Infrastructural Development in Nigerian Universities: A Case Study of University of Maiduguri**

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**Abstract:** This is an empirical paper that investigated public-private partnership as a panacea for infrastructural development in Nigerian Universities using the University of Maiduguri as a case study. The paper had an objective and corresponding research question. Survey research was adopted for the study. A sample of 80 respondents was selected using simple random sampling techniques out of the population of 100. A questionnaire was design by the research and validated by expert. The reliability of the instrument was tested using test- retest and a reliability coefficient of 0.79 was obtained signifying that the instrument was reliable. Data gathered was analyzed using descriptive statistic of frequency counts, percentage, mean and ranks. The finding of the study was that public private partnership has significantly improve students accommodation/hostels. The study concludes that public private partnership has improved infrastructural development in the University of Maiduguri. The study recommended among others the needs to encourage public private participation.

**Keywords:** Public-private partnership, Build operate and transfer, Build operate and own, Build own operate and transfer, Infrastructure, Deficit, Nigerian Universities, Concessions

**INTRODUCTION**

Infrastructure is the stock of fixed capital assets in a country, which includes roads, railways, airports, hospitals, waterways, electricity and telecommunication network [1]. Urban infrastructures are economic social facilities which are provided by the government or by private operators, for the social and economic development of the citizenry [2]. Education is the paramount legacy, a sustainable means of livelihood for human race and essential distinguishing feature of intellectualism. It is the oldest and preeminent invention that Man has ever discovered. Education should be globally adopted as an agent of change and stability to promote probity, equity and equality of opportunities and a launching pad for sustainable human development. According to Ogunwuyi [3] highlighted the enormous responsibilities of the Federal Government on the provision of infrastructure in the Nigerian Universities, deficits in it and also improving the system to compete favorably with its contemporaries across the world. The problem of inadequate funding and finance may be accrued to the failure of the Federal Government to implement the international UNESCO recommendation, of 26% of the national budget benchmark for developing country allocation into education [4]. If Nigeria must develop, her citizens must inculcate the culture of reading and learning in order to facilitate her paradigm shift from a

consuming nation to a producing nation. Clearly, business benefits from a well-educated work force, political stability and economic growth - all products of a sound education system.

In a similar vein, Efficiency Unit of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government [5] posits that Public Private Partnerships (PPP) as arrangements where the public and private sectors both bring their complementary skills to a project, with varying levels of involvement and responsibility, for the purpose of providing public services or projects. Similarly Davies and Eustice [6]. Stated that, one of the main reasons governments are opting to use PPPs for infrastructure development is to increase the efficiency of infrastructure projects through a long-term collaboration between the public sector and private business to compliment the *infrastructural deficit*. It is stated that the main consideration for public agencies for opting on PPPs should be ensuring monetary value. PPPs facilitate the project to be implemented on time and within budget. The "no service/no pay" principle ensures that the private partner is on incentive for timely delivery and operation of project assets. Better overall governance by private sector entities enables it to have better control of cost overruns contrary to traditional public procurements, which are often characterized by significant construction delays, and

cost overruns. Infrastructure needs according to Nigeria's National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) [7], cut across sectors and is central to economic development. According to Adegoke *et al.*, [2], recent disparity between the capacity to generate resources and the demand for new facilities has forced governments to look for new funding methods and sources in the form of Public-Private Partnership arrangements. Thus, there is compelling evidence that Nigeria has come to terms with procurement of public infrastructure via PPP arrangements. In another development Adedayo and Afolayan [8], asserted that the challenges of infrastructure provision have been recognized in Nigeria and have been listed as a cornerstone component for the realization of vision: 20:2020 goals as well as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) target.

It is also about exploiting or showing some examples of successful public-private partnership in Nigeria as a country and University in particular. Governments everywhere in the world are saddled with the responsibility of providing basic amenities to make life easier and comfortable for the citizens of any given society. The reality however, is that Governments at all levels, whether in the developed and developing nations are challenged due to competing demands for funds. In Nigeria, for instance, the country has in recent times being so weighed down by the huge cost for the payment of the wages and salaries to the extent that there is no tangible amount left to spare for capital projects that will raise the level of infrastructure in our towns, cities, rural areas and not to talk about the Universities.

In order to benefit from the lofty ideals that the PPP have to offer, the Federal Government gives the PPP a legal backing by signing into law the Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Act 2005 (ICRA Act). The act of the National assembly also established a body charged with the responsibility of monitoring PPPs. The body known as the Infrastructural Concession Regulatory Commission did not see the light of the day until 2008. The commission is tasked with the responsibility of the custody of every concession agreement made under the ICRC Act, monitor compliance; ensure efficient execution of any concession agreement entered into by the Government and to ensure compliance with the Act.

#### **Statement of problem**

Education is an expensive social service and requires adequate financial provision from all tiers of

government for successful implementation of the education programmes especially the infrastructural development. The Nigerian Government's ultimate goal is to make education free at all levels. But with increase population and growing number of additional Universities in Nigeria, the Federal Government over the years has find it difficult to carter for the needs of Universities and Education. Therefore, the financing of education and infrastructural development is a joint responsibility of the federal, state and local government and the private sector.

University of Maiduguri has fine it very difficult to accommodate the large population of its staff and student due to the inadequate infrastructural and infrastructural deficit especially the student hostels and staff quarters, Its against this background, Despite the effort by the federal government to feel the gap of infrastructural deficit in Nigerian Universities but there are still complain of infrastructural deficit. The Nigerian welcomes and encourages the participation of local communities, individuals and private sector, to feel the gap, through public private partnership participation.

#### **Objectives of the Study**

The objective of the study was to assess the:

Role of public, private partnership in infrastructural development.

#### **Research Question**

What is the role of public private partnership in infrastructural development?

#### **RESEARCH METHODS**

Survey research method was utilized for this study. The target population of the study 100 people comprises student and staff of the University of Maiduguri and 80 were selected as samples through simple random techniques base on Kreicic & Morgan [9] sample size estimation formula, this comprises the Staff and Student of the University. The researcher used a self designed questionnaire validated by expert and tagged "public-private partnership as a panacea for infrastructural development in Nigerian Universities (PPPIDNU)". The reliability of the instrument was done using test-retest. The coefficient was 0.79. The retrieved questionnaire were analysed using descriptive statistics, frequency, and percentage, mean and Ranks

#### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Question: What is the role of public private partnership in infrastructural development?

## RESULTS

S/N	Items	A	%	D	%	Total	Mean	Rank
1.	The University now has more student Hostel as a result of PPP.	69	86.2	11	13.7	80(100)	1.6	1
2.	The University now has more staff quarters as a result of Public, private partnership.	18	22.5	62	77.5	80(100)	0.42	5
3.	Public, private partnership has provided laboratories and state of the art equipment for R&D	29	36.2	51	63.7	80(100)	0.68	3
4.	The University community now has more roads network in the campus as result of PPP.	25	31.2	55	68.7	80(100)	0.59	4
5.	Adequate lectures hall and theater were provided as result of Public, private partnership.	32	48	48	60	80(100)	0.7 5	2
	Total	173		227		400		
	Overall mean						3.4	

Source Field Survey (2018)

Based on table above 86% of the respondent agreed that more Hostel were constructed through Public private partnership arrangement, 11% disagreed. while 62% of the respondent disagreed that more quarters were provide as a result of PPP, and also 51% of the respondent disagreed that PPP has provided Laboratories for Research and Development, while 55% of the respondent also disagreed that more roads were constructed as a result of public private partnership and finally 60% of the respondent disagreed that adequate Lecture theater and halls were provided by public private partnership.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The finding of the study shows that:

Public private partnership has significantly improved student's accommodation/ hostel and improved the infrastructural development in the University of Maiduguri.

## DISCUSSION

From the findings, the result reveals that the respondent significantly agreed that public private partnership has improved in the area of student Accommodation and hostel, the findings reveal that University of Maiduguri was able to enter into an agreement with private service developers to build-operate and transfer hostels for female students. The agreement culminated into building two separate hostels, they are Shettima Ali Monguno and B.O.T Hostels own by Philanthropies. Memorandum of understanding was sign between the Elder statesman and the University of Maiduguri management to build-operates and transfer hostels. The findings also shows that no significance effort in the area of staff quarters, roads as well as lecture theater and hall.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of the study, it was concluded that public private partnership has improved the infrastructural development in the area of hostel

accommodations and improved the living standard of students.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

In the light of the findings the following recommendation ware made:

- There is need to explore ways of attracting more philanthropies, private sector to partner with the University in other to develop and feel the gap of infrastructural deficit.
- There is need encourage private participation and in other to have the awareness of the opportunities in the Universities.

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