

Tertiary Education Trust Fund Provision of Physical Infrastructure and Performance of State Owned Tertiary Institutions in Enugu State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

The study investigated the effects of tertiary education trust fund and the provision of physical infrastructure in tertiary institution in Enugu State. The research design adopted for the study is survey. The study was carried out in five tertiary institutions chose for the study. The population size for this study is 195 school administrators drawn from the five selected tertiary institution in Enugu State. A sample of 131 respondents was drawn using Taro Yamane sampling technique. Specifically the study seek to determine the effects of tertiary education trust fund on the provision of adequate and functional school libraries in tertiary institution in Enugu State, the effect of tertiary education trust fund on completion of abandoned projects in tertiary institution in Enugu State, and to ascertain the effect tertiary trust fund on provision of lecture halls and office blocks in tertiary institution in Enugu State. The method of data analysis used for the study is simple percentage while the hypotheses were tested using the chi-square statistical tool. The findings of the study revealed that TETFUND has little or no significant effect in provision of libraries in tertiary institution in Enugu State, TETFUND has little or no significant effect in the provision of lecture halls and office blocks in tertiary institution in Enugu State, and that TETFUND has very little effect in the completion of abandoned projects in tertiary institution in Enugu State. Based on the findings, the following recommendations were therefore made; TETFUND should endeavor to make adequate fund available for the provision of libraries and library collections in tertiary institution in Enugu State, TETFUND should strive to ensure there is availability of fund for the construction and maintenance of lecture halls and office blocks in tertiary institutions in Enugu State and finally TETFUND should from time to time provide fund for completion of abandoned projects in tertiary institution in Enugu State.

Keywords: TETFUND, Physical Infrastructure, school libraries, abandoned projects

INTRODUCTION

Physical infrastructure is an indispensable element of any institution to functions. It comprises the built environment within the institution [1-4]. No institution can function without having some sort of physical infrastructure. It is therefore the life wire of any institution [5-8]. In establishing any higher institution after the acquisition of land, the next on the list is the provision of physical infrastructure, where the day to day running of the affair of the institution would be carried out [9-12]. Physical infrastructures include both not limited to lecture hall, office block, school libraries, laboratories and hostels. The importance of physical infrastructure to the existence of tertiary institution cannot be overemphasized [13-16]. It is indeed the bedrock of any institution. The presence of physical infrastructure in tertiary institution ensure active academic progress, it enhances both academic performance of the students and the staff as well [17-20]. Lecture halls, school libraries, laboratories, hostels and office blocks are essence for the existence of any tertiary institution. The school curriculum and extra curriculum activities cannot be carried out in the air [21-22]. Physical infrastructure is therefore a prerequisite for the success and existence of any tertiary institution. However, notwithstanding the importance of physical infrastructure, provision of adequate and functional physical infrastructure in our tertiary institution had been a

huge challenge [6]. This may be attributed to lack of fund on the part of the school management. The tertiary institution internally generated revenue is not enough to cater for its growing needs. It is not disputed that fund is a crucial factor in the provision of physical infrastructure. There had always been the problem of how to make fund available for the provision and maintenance of physical infrastructure in tertiary institution [9]. The provision of adequate fund in tertiary institution in Nigeria has long emerged as a big challenge which needs to be addressed. These problems are evident in the forms of dilapidated and abandoned projects in most tertiary institution [13]. Out dated laboratory equipment, inadequately equipped school libraries, all these in no small way hinder the academic objectives of tertiary institution in Nigeria. Consequently, there had always been a strict strife between the staff of tertiary institution and the government which in most cases result in the obstruction in academic work [15]. Tertiary institutions in the country have often resorted to striking actions to press home their demands for better working conditions and funding of infrastructure. To address this ugly situation, the Education Tax fund (EFF) was established by Education Tax Act 1993 as a home grown solution. However because of some lapses of Education Tax Act of 1993, it was repealed by Tertiary Education Trust Fund Act, 2011. With the establishment of this act it is hoped that provision of adequate fund for tertiary institution will be readily available [19]. This will help in the promotion of educational facilities and on the long run lead to national and economy development on the ground that tertiary institution is a prerequisite for national development because it affects other sectors of the national economy by providing the manpower and skills needed for national development. It is based on this background that the researcher seeks to investigate the effects of tertiary education trust fund on the provision of physical infrastructure in tertiary institution in Enugu State.

Statement of problem

For any institution to exist, there is the need for the provision and maintenance of adequate and functional physical infrastructure which will ensure the smooth running of the affairs of the institution. Provision of adequate fund is therefore a necessity. The government and the tertiary institution, management need to liaise with one another to ensure that adequate and functional physical infrastructure which is the life wire of any institution are put in place. For no institution will exist without any sort of physical infrastructure, where the day to day running of her activities is carried out, tertiary institution needs adequate fund to ensure that functional and efficient physical infrastructure are put in place. Fund should be readily made available for the provision and maintenance of adequate and functional school libraries, school laboratory to aid research in science and technology. Notwithstanding the overriding importance of physical infrastructure in tertiary institution across the country, a visit to most tertiary institution will reveal a dearth of functional and efficient physical infrastructure. It is not uncommon to see dilapidated building and abandoned projects in our tertiary institution. These in no small way hamper the academic objective and goal of most tertiary institution in Nigeria, making it very difficult to produce the manpower needed for national and economy development. It is however, based on these observed problems that the researcher seek to investigate the effect of tertiary education trust fund on the provision of physical infrastructure in tertiary institution in Enugu state.

Objectives of the study

The overall objectives of the study are to find out the effects of tertiary education trust fund on the provision of physical infrastructure in tertiary institution in Enugu State. Specifically the study seeks to:

- i. Determine the effects of tertiary education trust fund provision of adequate and functional school libraries and the performance of tertiary institution in Enugu state
- ii. Examine the effect of tertiary education trust fund completion of abandoned projects and the performance of tertiary institutions in Enugu State
- iii. Ascertain the effect of tertiary institution provision of lecture halls and office blocks and the performance of tertiary institutions in Enugu State.

Research Questions

The following research questions were formulated to guide the study

1. What are the effects of tertiary education trust fund provision of adequate and functional school libraries and the performance of tertiary institution in Enugu state?
2. What are effect of tertiary education trust fund completion of abandoned projects and the performance of tertiary institution in Enugu State?
3. What are the effect of tertiary institution provision of lecture halls and office blocks and the performance of tertiary institutions in Enugu State?

Significance of the study

This study has both empirical and theoretical significance. The empirical significance includes benefits to tertiary institution management, the government, tertiary education trust fund administrator, while the theoretical significance includes its benefits to future researchers. The findings of this study will help expose to tertiary institution management the needs to seek for financial help outside the school generated income. Since the schools is always in lack of adequate funding of its projects. Hence the needs to liaise with both the government and non-

governmental organizations in making fund available for tertiary institution, this will ensure that adequate physical infrastructure are put in place which will invariably aid the smooth running of the institution's activities. On the same vein the findings of this study will help the government to come to real terms with the issue of inadequate funding of tertiary institution which have often resulted in log ahead between the government and the tertiary institution staff. This will go a long way to checkmate the incessant industrial actions by academic staff of universities which have negative effect on academic activities. It is hoped that from the exposition of this study, the government will have a better understanding of the overriding importance of providing adequate fund to tertiary institution. Hence will endeavor to formulate and execute religiously policies to meet the financial needs of tertiary institution across the country rather than reckless neglect of tertiary institution by both the federal and state government. It is also hoped, from the findings of this work, the tertiary institution trust fund administrator will be more akin in the management and disbursement of fund to tertiary institutions in Nigeria, as any form of mismanagement of tertiary institution fund trust fund will be a big blow to national and economic development as it will lead to shortage of skills and manpower needed for national and economic growth. Finally, the findings of this study will be of immense benefits to future researchers. The findings of this researcher will provide useful insight to future researchers who wish to carry out research on problems relating to this topics.

Scope of the study

The study is limited to covering the effects of tertiary education trust fund on the provision of adequate and functional school libraries in tertiary institution in Enugu State, the effect of tertiary education trust fund on project facilitation, the effect of tertiary education trust fund on completion of abandoned projects in tertiary institution in Enugu State, and the effect of tertiary institution trust fund on staff training and development of tertiary institution in Enugu State.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The literature review covers the conceptual review, theoretical review and empirical review related of related literature

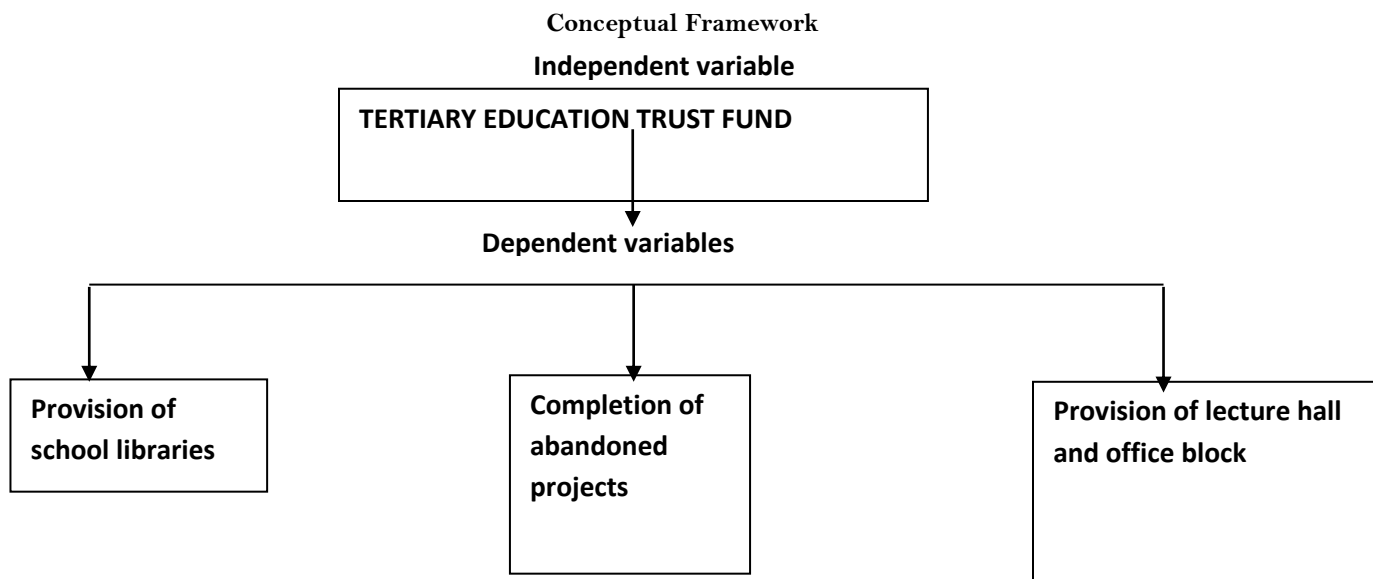


Figure1; Concept of physical infrastructure

[9], defined school infrastructural facilities as social capital within the school environment. They include school buildings/complexes such as classrooms, tables, exam halls, chairs, auditoria, desks, staff offices, seminar/conference/board rooms, laboratories, workshops, studios, farms, gymnasia, central libraries, specialized/professional libraries, faculty libraries, departmental libraries, etc., Institute/centres, specialized facilities e.g. ICT infrastructure, special laboratories, conference facilities, etc., and Boards e.g. interactive, magnetic, screen and chalk, etc., ICT that is computer laboratories and services, network connectivity, multi-media system, public address system, slide, and video projectors, and Ergonomics furnishing in laboratories, libraries, and lecture rooms/theatres, moot courts, and studios, etc. Students' hostels or accommodations including Boys and Girls hostels; municipal/physical infrastructure i.e. power supply, water supply, good road networks, sports, health and sanitation unit, staff schools, security facilities, etc.. Also, [8], submitted that University education comprises two components: inputs and outputs. Inputs constitute physical and human resources and outputs consist of the aim or goal and the outcome or result of the education. These physical resources are known as physical infrastructure which refers to basic facilities and equipment needed for the functioning of the university.

The facilities include lecture theatres, auditoria, classrooms, libraries, studios, laboratories, administrative blocks, workshops, sports centres, clinics, hostels, staff quarters, toilets, cafeterias, shops etc In the area of the importance of facilities to the realization of goals of the universities system, [8], acknowledged that it aids effective delivery of administrative functions in schools; it makes the delivery of services fast and reliable; it enables teachers to deliver lessons fast and infrastructural facilities provide a conducive working environment for both teachers and students; Infrastructural facilities enable learners to learn at ease and learn well; Infrastructural facilities enable the teachers to teach well, prepare their lessons, and deliver them online with the use of ICT or face-to-face, effectively. The importance of school infrastructural facilities in the realization of educational goals cannot be underestimated according to [8]. School facilities aid the delivery of the teaching and learning process in schools. The school offices provide a conducive working environment for teachers, the classrooms help the learners to learn while the school fence protects students, the teachers, and school administrators from criminals. The school plant protects the entire human resources from the sun, rain, heat cold, and snow [8].

Theoretical framework

Resource Dependency Theory (RDT)

The study adopted the Resource Dependency Theory (hereafter RDT) as a theoretical framework for the study on TETFund as an interventionist agency and to understand the dependence of public tertiary institutions on government funding for quality education. RDT was first propounded by [5] in the book, "*The external control of organizations: A resource dependence perspective*". The major argument put forward by this theory is that organizations depend on resources and that these resources ultimately originate from an organization's environment.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

In this study, a research survey was conducted to supplement other sources of data which include textbooks, journal and other printed materials. Survey research studies both large and small population to discover the relative incidence, distribution and interrelation of sociological and psychological variable. Survey research is more reliable for this study because it enables samples to be selected from the entire population in order to analyze data which would allow the researcher to make reference on characteristics of the identified population. Therefore, a well-constructed questionnaire was used to pose relevant questions to the respondents.

Study Area

The study was carried out in public tertiary institution in Enugu State, Nigeria. Five tertiary institutions were chosen for the study, the five tertiary institutions include one university, two college of education and two polytechnics. The university chosen is Enugu State University of technology, while the polytechnics chosen were Institute of management and technology, Enugu State Polytechnics, and finally the colleges of education chosen were the Enugu State College of Health and Enugu State college of Education.

Population of the Study

The population size for this study is 195 school administrators drawn from the five selected tertiary institution in Enugu State.

Sample Size and Sampling Techniques

Taro Yamane sampling technique was used to determine a sample size of 131 respondents. The sample size was thus determined as follows;

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N (e^2)}$$

Where

n = the desired sample size, N = population, e= maximum acceptable level of error, 1 = mathematical constant

$$n = \frac{195}{1 + 195 (0.05)^2} = 131$$

The sample techniques adopted for the selection of respondents was field survey method because each school do not have equal chance of being selected

Instrument for data collection

The research made used of questionnaire designed by the researcher as the instrument for data collection. The questionnaires were administered to the respondents on face to face contact, while retrieval was equally through the same process. The questionnaire consists of a set question designed to gather data from the targeted respondents.

Method of data collection

The researcher administered the questionnaire personally to the respondents. The researcher visited the institutions selected for the research, after obtaining the consent of the respondents, he administered the questionnaire to them, waited while they respond to the questions and retrieved it immediately. This ensured one hundred percent return rate of all the questionnaire administered.

Method of data analysis

The method of data analysis used for the study is simple percentage. Data collected from the respondents were presented in tables and analyzed using simple percentage. While the hypotheses were tested using the chi-square statistical tool.

Simple percentage formula

$$\frac{f}{N} \times 100$$

Where f = frequency, N = sum of cumulative frequency

$$\text{Chi-square formula } \chi^2 = \sum \frac{(O-e)^2}{e}$$

Where \sum = summation sign

O = observed frequency data

e = expected frequency data

Decision Rule: Accept null hypothesis if table value is greater than calculated value, otherwise reject null hypothesis

Data Presentation and Analysis

This chapter deals with the presentation, analysis, and interpretation of the data collected by the researcher in the course of carrying out the research. The presence of data makes no meaning to anybody unless adequate analysis of such data is carried out. The research is based on the analysis of questionnaire, field survey and interview.

Research Question 1

What are the effects of tertiary education trust fund on provision of school libraries in tertiary institution in Enugu State?

Table 1: The respondents' views on the effects of tertiary education trust fund on provision of libraries in tertiary institution in Enugu State

Effects of TETFUND on provision of Physical infrastructure	Frequency	Percent
TETFUND has contributed to construction of library in tertiary institution in Enugu State	30	22.9
TETFUND has made fund available for renovation of existing libraries in tertiary institution in Enugu State	28	21.4
There has been provision of furniture and other library collections through TETFUND intervention	26	19.8
TETFUND has ensure internet connectivity in libraries in higher institution In Enugu State	23	17.6
TETFUND has made fund available for acquisition of digitalization/automation equipment in libraries in tertiary institution in Enugu State.	24	18.3
Total	131	100.0

Source: Researcher, 2023

From the table 1, Majority of the respondents which constitute 22.9% agreed that TETFUND help in the immensely in construction of library building in tertiary institutions in Enugu State. 21.4% of the respondents agreed that TETFUND helped in the provision of funds for renovation of existing school library buildings. 19.8% of the respondents concord that TETFUND provide furniture and other library collections in their institution. 17.6% of the respondents noted that TETFUND provide helps in providing internet connectivity in their school library and finally remaining 18.3% of the responded agreed that TETFUND provide e-library services in tertiary institution by providing digitalization/automation equipment. From the findings of the table above, revealed that TETFUND played significant role in the provision of physical infrastructures in tertiary institution.

Research Question 2

What are the effect of tertiary education trust fund on provision of lecture hall and office block in tertiary institution in Enugu State?

Table 2: The respondents view on the effects of tertiary education trust fund on provision of lecture hall and office block in tertiary institution in Enugu State

Effects of TETFUND on provision of lecture hall and office blocks	Frequency	Percent
TETFUND provides funds for construction of lecture hall in tertiary institutions	28	21.4
TETFUND makes funds available for renovation of existing lecture halls in tertiary institutions	28	21.4
TETFUND provides funds for acquisition of office equipments	25	19
TETFUND has been active in the provision of chairs, desks, and other teaching aids in tertiary institutions in Enugu State	26	19.8
TETFUND helps in the construction and renovation of office blocks in tertiary institutions in Enugu State	24	18.3
Total	131	100.0

Source: Researcher, 2023

From the table 2, 21.4% of the presented were of the opinion that TETFUND provides fund for construction of lecture halls. 21.4% of the respondents were of the opinion that TETFUND provide funds for renovation of existing lecture hall in their institutions, 19% of the respondents occurred that TETFUND made fund available for acquisition of office equipment's in their institutions, 19.8% agreed that TETFUND plays active role in the provision of chairs, desk and other teaching aid in their institutions, while 18.3% of the respondents agreed that TETFUND helps in the construction and renovation of office blocks in their schools. The findings of the table therefore revealed that TETFUND has significant effect on the provision of lecture hall and office block in tertiary institution in Enugu State.

Research Question 3

What are the effect of tertiary education trust fund on completion of abandoned projects in tertiary institution in Enugu State?

Table 3: The respondents view on the effects of tertiary education trust fund on completion of abandoned projects in tertiary institution in Enugu State

Effects of TETFUND on completion of abandoned projects	Frequency	Percent
Carry out feasibility study on abandoned projects in tertiary institution in Enugu State	36	27.4
Make fund available for the completion of abandoned projects in tertiary institution in Enugu State	32	24.4
Review the cause of abandoned projects in tertiary institution in Enugu State	31	23.7
Monitor the rehabilitation of abandoned projects in tertiary institutions in Enugu State	32	24.4
Total	131	100.0

Source: Researcher, 2023

From the table 3, 27.4% of the representing majority of the respondents were of the opinion that TETFUND carry out feasibility study on abandoned projects in their schools, 24.4% of the respondents were of the opinion that TETFUND provide funds for completion of abandoned projects, 23.7% of the respondents occurred that TETFUND reviewed the causes of abandoned projects in tertiary institution in Enugu State, and finally 24.4% of the respondents concord that TETFUND monitor the rehabilitation of abandoned projects in tertiary institution in Enugu State to ensure its completion. From the findings of table 4.6 above it could be inferred that TETFUND has significant effect on the completion of abandoned projects in tertiary institution in Enugu State.

Test of Hypotheses

The hypotheses were tested using the chi-square statistical tool

Hypothesis I

H₀: TETFUND has no significant effect on the provision of libraries in tertiary institution in Enugu State

Table 4: was used for testing hypothesis I

Effects of TETFUND on provision of Physical infrastructure	Frequency	Percent
TETFUND has contributed to construction of library in tertiary institution in Enugu State	30	22.9
TETFUND has made fund available for renovation of existing libraries in tertiary institution in Enugu State	28	21.4
There has been provision of furniture and other library collections through TETFUND intervention	26	19.8
TETFUND has ensure internet connectivity in libraries in higher institution In Enugu State	23	17.6
TETFUND has made fund available for acquisition of digitalization/automation equipment in libraries in tertiary institution in Enugu State.	24	18.3
Total	131	100.0

Table 5: Chi Square table

O	E	(O-e)	(O-e) ²	$\frac{(O-e)^2}{E}$
30	26.2	3.8	14.44	0.55
28	26.2	1.8	3.24	0.12
26	26.2	-0.2	0.04	0
23	26.2	-3.2	10.24	0.39
24	26.2	-2.2	4.84	0.18
131				1.24

Table value = 5.991, calculated value = 1.24

Decision: Since the calculated value (1.24) which is less than the table value (5.99), the H₀ (null hypothesis) is accepted. This implies that TETFUND has no significant effect in the provision of school libraries in tertiary institution in Enugu State

Hypothesis II

H₀: TETFUND has no significant effect on the provision of lecture halls and office blocks in tertiary institution in Enugu State

Table 6 was used for testing hypothesis II

Effects of TETFUND on provision of lecture hall and office blocks	Frequency	Percent
TETFUND provides funds for construction of lecture hall in tertiary institutions	28	21.4
TETFUND makes funds available for renovation of existing lecture halls in tertiary institutions	28	21.4
TETFUND provides funds for acquisition of office equipments	25	19
TETFUND has been active in the provision of chairs, desks, and other teaching aids in tertiary institutions in Enugu State	26	19.8
TETFUND helps in the construction and renovation of office blocks in tertiary institutions in Enugu State	24	18.3
Total	131	100.0

Table 7: Chi Square table

O	E	(O-e)	(O-e) ²	$\frac{(O-e)^2}{E}$
28	26.2	1.8	3.24	0.12
28	26.2	1.8	3.24	0.12
25	26.2	-1.2	1.44	0.05
26	26.2	-0.2	0.04	0
24	26.2	-2.2	4.84	0.18
131				0.47

Table value = 5.991, calculated value = 0.47

Decision: Since the calculated value (0.47) is less than the table value (5.99), the H₀ (null hypothesis) is accepted. This means that TETFUND has not been efficient in the provision of physical infrastructure in tertiary institution in Enugu State.

Hypothesis III

H₀: TETFUND has no significant effect on the completion of abandoned project in tertiary institution in Enugu State

Table 8 was used for testing hypothesis III

Effects of TETFUND on completion of abandoned projects	Frequency	Percent
Carry out feasibility study on abandoned projects in tertiary institution in Enugu State	36	27.4
Make fund available for the completion of abandoned projects in tertiary institution in Enugu State	32	24.4
Review the cause of abandoned projects in tertiary institution in Enugu State	31	23.7
Monitor the rehabilitation of abandoned projects in tertiary institutions in Enugu State	32	24.4
Total	131	100.0

Table 9: Chi Square table

O	E	(O-e)	(O-e) ²	$\frac{(O-e)^2}{e}$
36	26.2	9.8	96.04	3.66
32	26.2	5.8	33.64	1.28
31	26.2	4.8	23.04	0.87
32	26.2	5.8	33.64	1.28
131				6.31

Table value = 5.991, calculated value = 0.47

Decision: Since the calculated value (6.31) which is greater than the table value (5.99), the H₀ (null hypothesis) is therefore rejected. This means that TETFUND has significant effect on completion of abandoned projects in tertiary institution in Enugu State.

Discussion of findings

From the findings of table 4.5 on the effect of TETFUND on the provision of libraries in tertiary institution in Enugu State, the findings of the table reveals a calculated value of (1.24) which is less than the table value (5.99), the H₀ (null hypothesis) is accepted. This implies that TETFUND has no significant effect in the provision of school libraries in tertiary institution in Enugu State. The finding of the table above is in agreement with assertions of Ogundu & Nwokoye (2013) that university libraries do not have enough quantity of information resources to cater for their numerous users. The authors also went further to assert that there is also deficiency in number of library staff that had benefited in TETFUND staff development programme. The findings fall in consonance with the observations of Rufai, (2012) that the physical infrastructures of most university libraries are not sufficient and not up to date with the current trends in providing library services.

The findings of table 4.6 above on the effect of TETFUND on the provision of lecture hall and office block in tertiary institution in Enugu State, the findings revealed a calculated value of 0.47 which is less than the table value (5.99), and hence the H_0 (null hypothesis) is accepted. This implies that TETFUND has no significant effect in the provision of lecture halls and office blocks in tertiary institution in Enugu State. The findings of the study is in agreement with the observations of Ekundayo and Ajayi (2009) who noted that Nigerian universities are faced with inadequate funding when compared to their counterparts in other parts of the world, despite the intervention of TETFUND. Consequently from the findings of table 4.7 on the effect of TETFUND on the completion of abandoned building in tertiary institution in Enugu State, the table revealed a calculated value (6.31) which is greater than the table value (5.99), the H_0 (null hypothesis) is therefore rejected. This means that TETFUND has significant effect on completion of abandoned projects in tertiary institution in Enugu State. The finding of the study is in agreement with the statement of Sonny Echono (2023), about TETFUND readiness to priorities completion of all abandoned projects in the nation's universities. He went further to assert that 175 abandoned projects, sponsored by TETFUND are in various institution of higher learning in the country.

Summary of the findings

1. TETFUND has little or no significant effect in provision of libraries in tertiary institutions in Enugu State
2. TETFUND has little or no significant effect in the provision of lecture halls and office block in tertiary institution in Enugu State
3. TETFUND has very little effect in the completion of abandoned projects in tertiary institutions in Enugu State.

CONCLUSION

From the findings of the study; the study draws the following conclusions that TETFUND has not fully realized its objectives of which it was set up by the federal government in the area of physical infrastructural provision in tertiary institution across the country. Based on this the study make the following recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings and conclusion draw, the following recommendations are therefore made;

1. TETFUND should endeavor to make adequate fund available for the provision of libraries and library collections in tertiary institution in Enugu State
2. TETFUND should strive to ensure there is availability of fund for the construction and maintenance of lecture halls and office blocks in tertiary institutions in Enugu State
3. TETFUND should from time to time provide fund for completion of abandoned projects in tertiary institution in Enugu State

Suggestions for further studies

Further studies should be carried out on the followings

1. TETFUND financial management and provision of physical infrastructure in tertiary institution in Enugu State
2. TETFUND personnel training and development and provision of physical infrastructure in tertiary institution in Enugu State
3. TETFUND budgetary allocation and provision of physical infrastructure in tertiary institution in Nigeria.

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