

Article

Inflation and Teachers Job Performance in Public Schools in Nigeria

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Abstract: The effect of inflation on teachers' work performance in Nigerian public schools was covered in this essay. The study is a review that relies on secondary sources. Print and internet publications provided the secondary data. The study found that public school teachers' work performance has been adversely impacted by inflation. The study also demonstrated how teachers' standard of living has been impacted by inflation, which has resulted in them walking to school and paying more for educational materials that are essential to curriculum implementation. The study makes the following policy recommendations in light of this finding: the government ought to raise the pay and benefits of public school teachers. The cost of educational materials for instructors and pupils in public schools ought to be covered by the government. In order to facilitate the transportation of teachers and pupils to and from public schools, both public and private organisations should provide school buses.

Keywords: Inflation, Teachers Job performance, Public schools

1. Introduction

Public schools are government-owned and run institutions. Public schools are educational institutions created by the federal, state, and municipal governments to serve the broad public, regardless of gender or ethnicity. Public schools are educational institutions created by legislation to offer individuals free and mandatory education. Universities, education colleges, polytechnics, special colleges, senior secondary schools, basic education schools, and other government-owned formal and informal educational institutions are all considered public schools. Public schools were founded throughout Nigeria to offer educational services and grant diplomas to eligible individuals who fulfilled the legal requirements and standards. In Nigeria, the government is in charge of running the public schools. There are several difficulties in Nigeria's public schools, particularly for the instructors. Public school teachers are undermotivated and dealing with inflation as a financial issue. According to Trading Economics (2024), Nigeria's headline inflation rate increased from 33.69% in May 2024 to 33.95% for the 17th consecutive month, the highest level since March 1996. The most recent data was released as fuel prices continued to rise following the government's removal of subsidies and currency depreciation. Increases in the price of potatoes, fish, and meat caused food inflation, which makes up the majority of Nigeria's inflation basket, to soar to a record high of 40.66% in May as opposed to 40.53% in April. Prices for housing and utilities (29.64% vs. 28.77%), apparel and footwear (16.60% vs. 16.47%), and transportation (25.62% vs. 25.39%) accounted for the majority of the additional upward pressure, which was caused by the recent increases in gasoline and power rates. In May, the annual core inflation rate—which does not include energy and farm products—rose to a fresh all-time high of 27.04%. After increasing by 2.29% in April, consumer prices increased by 2.14% in May, the lowest increase in six months.

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2.0 Literature Review

Concept of Inflation

As more money chases fewer products and services, inflation is the ongoing decline in the purchasing power of money, which has a negative impact on the economy and lowers the quality of living for the populace [1]. When a large sum of money can only be utilised to purchase a limited number of goods and services, inflation takes place [2]. According to Ogunode and Ukozor, inflation is the gradual rise in the cost of goods and services over time. Economic activity and other sectors, such as education, particularly tertiary education, are impacted by inflation [3]. Higher education is a structured program that uses teaching, research, and community service to build a workforce and alter the country. [4]. An economy experiences inflation when the average level of prices for goods and services rises steadily over time. In simple terms, it means that when money loses value over time, prices for goods and services rise. In essence, fewer goods and services are available for the same amount of money than usual. The steady rise in the average price of goods and services in an economy is known as inflation. While it can help some sectors of the economy, such as promoting economic growth, it can also lead to some major issues, particularly with regard to the cost of food, purchasing educational resources, tuition, teacher salaries, and student and teacher transportation expenses [5].

Concept of Teachers' job performance

The degree to which an employee can successfully complete tasks under regular conditions while utilising organisational resources is known as job performance [6]. Stated differently, it refers to the actions or results that a person produces while carrying out their given tasks for the benefit of both the organisation and themselves. Characteristics like knowledge base, sense of responsibility, and curiosity significantly influence a teacher's performance; student characteristics include academic work and learning opportunities; teaching factors include lesson structure and communication; learning aspects include involvement and success; and classroom factors include climate, environment, organisation, and management. Teachers' performance would be improved to the highest possible level if they took these elements carefully [7]. According to Ajilabi (2000), the performance of teachers is a prudent commitment to meeting standards both inside and outside of the classroom. It is possible to see Cambell work performance as a variable at the individual level or as something that is done by a single person [7]. Thus, job performance interviews are used to assess an employee's performance. The role of teachers Numerous elements, including motivation, credentials, and school climate, have a significant impact on secondary school performance (Atiya & Palwasha, ND). The degree to which professional teachers carry out school functions on schedule is measured by their work performance [8], [9]. Teachers' job performance is crucial to the school since their success or failure impacts the educational system as a whole. Student performance on tests and the overall success of the school are impacted by the work that teachers do. One of the most difficult factors influencing student accomplishment is teacher effectiveness, both individually and collectively [10]. Effective teaching, lesson note preparation, efficient use of the work schedule, efficient supervision, and student work monitoring are among the job performance factors that Adeyemi in Giami and Obiechina identified. The virtue of disciplinary ability is one that educators should successfully promote in the classroom. Therefore, the following metrics can be used to assess teachers' job performance: annual report on teaching performance, lesson note preparation, lesson presentation, subject-matter mastery, instructional proficiency, commitment to duty, extracurricular activities, and dedication to assigned job [11], [12], [13].

2. Materials and Methods

This study evaluates how inflation affects Nigerian public school teachers' work performance. Elsevier, CEON, and Goggle Scholar databases were searched for publications that matched the keywords "inflation," "teachers' job," and other related terms in order to gather secondary data for the paper. Original, open-access papers that addressed relevant research issues and were published between 2004 and 2023 were included in this analysis. They were sourced from the Web of Science's core collection,

respectable journals in Scopus Q1–Q4, and journals accredited by the Science and Technology Index (SINTA) (S1–S6). The different research findings were then examined in light of how the idea of insecurity was used and how well teachers performed on the job. All of the information was descriptively examined and is given in brief narratives. [14]

3. Results.

Nigerian inflation has impacted teachers' commutes from their homes to classrooms, which has a direct impact on how well they perform on the job. The government hires teachers as professionals to conduct academic services in schools. The majority of educators in Nigeria commute from their homes to the schools where they work. The country is experiencing inflation as a result of the recent increase in fuel costs, which has also raised transport fares [1], [15], and [16]. Teachers' and pupils' commutes to school were impacted by inflation [17]. Teachers' living standards were also impacted by inflation, which may have led to a lack of enthusiasm to fulfil their duties. Commodity price increases lower consumers' marginal propensity to save, which has a negative impact on people's quality of life. In an effort to maintain a minimal level of living, people have been driven to take on more income-generating jobs, often at the detriment of their health, due to the volatility of products and service prices [18]; [5]. According to Gagarawa and Mehrotra, many households have turned to extra income-generating activities in order to maintain their standard of living or meet their expenses, which always rise during inflation. This is a sign of a decline in leisure time, productivity, and improved social and physical health. This explains how inflation affects citizens' living standards since it lowers households' real income, forcing them to reduce spending and cut back on wasteful spending while concentrating more on ways to raise income in order to get by during this difficult time. As more money chases fewer products and services, inflation is the ongoing decline in the purchasing power of money, which has a negative impact on the economy and lowers the quality of living for the populace [1]. Nigerian inflation has caused the naira to clearly devalue, which has severely diminished the value of those with fixed incomes, particularly teachers. Because it permits arbitrary price increases for goods and services to the detriment of workers' fixed income, even when it is evident that their purchasing power is steadily declining, inflation is detrimental to workers' economic growth and prosperity and eventually weakens their incentive to save. Put another way, when there is inflation in the economy, the purchasing power of a certain quantity of money will gradually decrease. As a cankerworm that eats away at fixed earners' income, inflation has a significant impact on citizens' standards of living. The inability to take care of family needs and deal with the high cost of transportation to work, purchasing food to feed, paying for electricity or medical bills, renewing rent and other crucial issues related to the high cost of living frequently results in frustration and anger. People's standard of life declines due to inflation, particularly for those with fixed incomes. A period of persistently rising prices for goods and services is known as inflation. When money loses its purchasing power, fewer products and services are pursued. Teachers' morale and ability to complete activities as assigned have been impacted by this [19], because of the high expense of school transport and inflation. According to Okpunukpang, Ogunode, and Ugwa as well as Afolabi, Luka, and Ogunode, many teachers and students travel great distances to attend classes and provide lectures. Teachers' daily long-distance hiking to school has a detrimental effect on their performance on the job. Okpunukpang, Ogunode, and Suleiman (2024); Akuh (2024); and Ugbede-Ojo (2024) came to the conclusion that teachers' long-distance trekking can interrupt the implementation of the curriculum in schools, worsen their physical and mental health, cause them to become frustrated and unmotivated, cause them to develop psychological problems, reduce their job productivity, and reduce their research hours.

The cost of educational materials used to carry out the curriculum has increased in Nigeria as a result of inflation. The elimination of gasoline product subsidies in Nigeria has resulted in an increase in the cost of educational resources and supplies. In Nigeria, the elimination of subsidies has resulted in an increase in the cost of numerous educational resources [20], [21]. The elimination of subsidies brought on by the increase in petrol prices

is causing market prices for commodities to rise sharply. The expense of transferring these resources from the cities drives up the price of educational materials [17]. The expense of transferring these resources from the metropolis drives up the price of educational supplies [22]. (Sunday, 2023) stated that Mrs. Adeloye Lucky, the administrator of Graceville Christian School in Jos North, observed that the rise in gasoline prices is already having an impact on education. Due to shipping costs, Nigerian books that we used to purchase for N1,200 now cost N2,000, or roughly N2,500. Lucky stated, "You can't blame them because they can't sell it at a loss either; they have to sell it at a profit." Fuel is the lifeblood of this nation; any contact with it will have an impact on all aspects of existence. Everything is impacted by fuel.

4. Discussion

The study found that public school teachers' work performance has been adversely impacted by inflation. The study also demonstrated how teachers' standard of living has been impacted by inflation, which has resulted in them walking to school and paying more for educational materials that are essential to curriculum implementation.

5. Conclusion

This study looked at how inflation affected Nigerian public school teachers' work performance. The study found that public school teachers' work performance has been adversely impacted by inflation. The study also demonstrated how teachers' standard of living has been impacted by inflation, which has resulted in them walking to school and paying more for educational materials that are essential to curriculum implementation. The study makes the following policy recommendations in light of this finding: the government ought to raise the pay and benefits of public school teachers. The cost of educational materials for instructors and pupils in public schools ought to be covered by the government. In order to facilitate the transportation of teachers and pupils to and from public schools, both public and private organisations should provide school buses.

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