

## GOVERNMENT-UNIVERSITY COLLABORATION AND HUMAN CAPITAL FORMATION IN UNIVERSITIES IN RIVERS STATE, NIGERIA

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### Abstract

*This study examined the relationship between government universitys' collaboration and human capital formation in universities in Rivers State. Two research questions and two hypotheses guided the study. The population of the study comprised Three Thousand One Hundred and Seventy Six (3,176) academic staff in the three universities in Rivers State, Nigeria. A sample size of two hundred and forty four (244) academic staff, representing 8% of the population was drawn using stratified random sampling technique. The study adopted a correlational survey design. Instruments titled: Government-University Collaboration Scale (GUCS), and Human Capital Formation Scale (HCFS) developed by the researcher was validated. The reliability coefficients of the instruments were 0.92 and 0.94 respectively using Cronbach alpha statistics which guaranteed the use of the instruments for study. The Pearson Product Moment correlation coefficient (r) was used in answering the research questions, while the hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance using Pearson Product Moment correlation coefficient (r). It was found out among others that there is a significant high relationship between government-university collaboration and human capital formation in Universities in Rivers State. It was recommended among others that the government should establish more universities that will have business schools, sports institute, petroleum institute and ICT training centers.*

**Key words:** Government-University-collaboration, human capital formation.

## Introduction

It is incontrovertible that government and university play major roles in the development of every nation through the development of human beings. The government is the supreme body of any country state with the power to make laws implement and enforce them to control people, institutions, organizations as well as land areas. They control and manage every system, both socio-economic and political. They hold a monopoly on the legitimate use of force in a given territory. The government controls the university system, funds and finances it, enacts laws, formulates policies and modifies curriculum, supports research and manages it through the appointment of qualified management staff. They assist the university in financing and funding of their various programmes, projects and for staff remuneration. Funding that accrues from the government to the university sustains them in the training of quality manpower for national economic growth and development. They control and assist the university through legitimate supreme power: economic power, political superiority and diplomatic power projection. The functions and responsibilities of the government towards acquiring and increasing the number of trained manpower cannot be overemphasized.

According to Wikipedia the free encyclopedia (2022), opined that government is seen as the political direction and control exercised over the actions of the members, citizens or inhabitants of communities, societies and states: direction of the affairs of the state, community etc. political administration. Government is necessary to the existence of a civilized society. A government is the formal system or an organized community. Government provides the parameters for everyday behaviour for citizens, protect them from outside interference and often provides for their well-being and happiness.

Government performs enormous numbers of functions and authorities which gives the prerogative to control and direct the university in a state where there is no university autonomy. It sets and administers public policy and exercises executive, political and societal power through customs, institutions and laws within a state (Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia 2022).

University is an organized social and formal institution established by law to undertake the responsibilities of transmitting knowledge, develop desirable and scintillating skills, cherished positive values, attitudes and other training geared towards human development. University is one of the educational institutions of higher learning that gives education and cognitive training after secondary education. It is a formal setting where students acquire relevant knowledge, studious skills, abilities, attitudes and other forms of positive behaviours for a better living

The above aphorism corroborate with the view of Fafunwa in Alete-Omoni (2015), that education is the aggregate of the process by which a child or youth adult develop abilities, attitudes and other forms of behaviour which are of positive values to the society in which he lives. These gross processes of developing adult members of the society are the responsibilities saddled upon the universities to ensure the full realization of human being with talents, skills and knowledge as catalysts for national planning and development. University is a formal institution with a unified structure: The Visitor, the Chancellor, the council, Pro-chancellor and

members of council, the senate, convocation, the congregation, the vice-chancellor, deputy vice chancellor, registrar, the bursar, university librarian, the director of physical planning and development, the director of academic planning and control, the provost, dean of faculty/schools, the heads of departments, university committee and democratic governance (Nwafor in Alete-Omoni, 2017).

Universities are institutionalized to achieve a specific purpose of training human beings to become socio-economic and political reformers and technological inventors and innovators through the strenuous efforts of the afore-mentioned structural officers. It is also established to satisfy specific and general educational needs of a nation through teaching and learning processes, conduct of research and community development services. This corroborates with the assertion of Nwafor in Alete-Omoni (2017), that universities are created to satisfy specific or general educational needs of a nation through teaching of students, conduct of research and dissemination of knowledge together with other community service activities. In achieving the above goals and avowed objectives of establishing the universities in a nation, supreme power bodies with more sufficient economic power and political superiority have to enact civic and education laws, provide funds, formulate economic and feasible transforming education policies, modify educational curriculum to be in consonant with the needs of the society. That was the reason why Nwafor in Alete-Omoni (2017), stated that the achievement of these objectives requires an organization to saddle upon and to implement appropriate academic policies and to administer the services to support them with a minimum of economic waste and minimum utilization of human talent and material resources. Therefore, the government and university must work concomitantly to ensure the realization of the required human capital for the acceleration of the nation's economic and technological progress.

Government-university collaboration is referred to any types of cooperation between the governments and universities to strengthen and enhance all university's programmes in order to foster economic and political development in a nation. University-government collaboration provides a framework that enables the intellectuals (universities) to generate and protect their knowledge and help them for knowledge transfers and commercialization. Their collaboration provides enabling environment for the universities to perform optimally in meeting up the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century innovation and ideas which brings about notable national economic development.

It might be possible that, Government-university collaboration can bring about great and remarkable ideas which engender smooth teaching and learning outcomes. These smooth processes in teaching and learning might bring a leeway for student's success to become self-reliant and nation builders. In every economy, much is expected from the university. The acquisition of germane knowledge and skills which obliterate a nation from being a demand-led economy to a supply-led economy is largely dependent on the university education. The university also sets pace for political, economic and technology to achieve greater development for national gain and individual prosperity. It is pivotal for individual mental and psychomotor development which determines the nation's ability to achieve greatness and match up with

global competitiveness. To deplore the preponderance of the students to achieve span diverse opportunities for a better survival and societal development, Alete-Omoni and Vita (2018) suggested that it will be imperative to strengthen government-university collaboration as an uninterrupted and undiluted collaboration because they are strong pillars in determining the level of a nation's wealth.

Nigeria economy is facing a lot of underdevelopment indicators such as unemployment, unfavorable balance of payment, inflation, unstable price level and other banditry operations of the angry youths and graduates from the universities which are becoming alarming saga in Nigeria. The university is the citadel for knowledge, center for excellence and human development which corroborate with the assertion of Alete-Omoni and Asuku (2018), that, every school programmes is geared towards producing well-informed and productive citizens. They also opined that the school programmes help in ensuring that the students total ingenuity, and esteemed personality are developed optimally. With these responsibilities and roles play by the university assist to rebuild the nation, therefore must need the support, cooperation and ideas of the government to meet their avowed objectives.

Conversely, worthy of note is the fact that the responsibilities of producing the best and first class productive citizens for national development must be upon the shoulders of the government and university. Collaboration theory credited to the work of Black (2002) stated that trust, knowledge sharing and collaboration are central elements of effective inter-organizational relationships to achieving set goals. The university needs a congeal collaboration of the government with trust and knowledge sharing. Etzkowitz and Leydesdorff (2000), also opined that a country's economic structure lies on four pillars: academia, firms, government and society. Implying that the university and government is very consequential in nation building. They also opined that economic growth is generated by the clustering and concentration of talented and productive people. That was why Adam Smith in Ebong (2006), stated that an educated population is a productive population. So a man's talents and skills are nurtured, promoted and perfected at the university, therefore government-university collaboration is a strategy and an antidote for fighting the above adumbrated underdevelopment saga militating against the economic progress of this country. It is a general believe that education of the people is the first step towards their socio-political development (Eborg, 2006), Marshall in Ebong (2006), also opined that most valuable of all capital is in human beings. This is a clear indication that every nation needs the development of her citizens through university education and it is achievable through government-university collaboration. Their collaboration produces innovative ideas, creating and sharing of information, vision, accomplished results, achieves risk management, establish structure, develop capacities and create values to achieving human capital formation at the universities.

Human capital formation is the process of increasing knowledge, competence, social attributes and the capacities of all people of the country, it could be referred to any mechanism used in achieving a greater number of skillful and educated minds for national and individual development. It explicates the fact that individual innate potentialities are developed to become

economic and technological drivers to catalyzing the economy for better growth and development. Human capital formation is thus associated with investment in man and his development as creative and productive resources (Jhingan, 2016). Human capital formation is the processes of acquiring and increasing the number of persons who have the skills, education and experiences which are critical for the economic and political development of a country (Jhingan, 2016). It is the process of increasing knowledge, skills, capacities and social services, proficiencies of all the human beings in a society. In economic terms, it could be described as the accumulation of human capital and its effective investment in the development of an economy (Harrison and Myers in Alete-Omoni, 2015).

Schematically, most of the developed economies of the world keep growing in socio-political, economic and technological capacities due to their earnest quest in human capital formation. Acquiring and increasing the number of human capital develops more than the physical and material resources of a community and makes a nation to be developed in a progressive pace. The human resources of an economy constitute the human capital of that nation. Thus, human capital is the stock of proficiencies, values, competences, knowledge, skills, abilities, creativity, authorities, social and personality which are bestowed on productive citizens. According to Denison in Agabi (2002), opined that the importance of human skills developed is through education and training. That was why Adam Smith and Alfred Marshall led the progressive and articulating debate during the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries that the educated man's contribution to the economy is the most valuable, and that the most valuable of capital is the human beings (Jhingan, 2016). That was why Harrison in Agabi (2002), opined that human beings are the active agents who accumulates physical capital, exploits natural resources, build socio-economic/political organization and carry forward national development. This implies that formal education is a vital tool for human capital formation. Human capital formation is achievable through establishment of more universities and provision of adequate funding of the universities in the societies.

Government-university collaboration in the establishment of more universities helps in accumulating human capital needed for accelerating the economy. Establishment of the universities ensure the full realization of the human resources necessary for transforming the technological industries, set political and socio-economic pace in the society. The government sites the university in an enabling environment close to the people to ensure the harnessing of innovative ideas and strategies for solving life challenges. Universities are established for creativity and knowledge transfer, resourcefulness and competences of citizenries to invent and remain productive in the future. The universities contribute to the development of first and second level education in every society. This corroborates with the assertion of Isi (2015), that it plays an important role in setting the academic standard for primary and secondary education, providing policy advice in the education field and support for the preparation of school curricula, as well as training administrators and teachers for primary and secondary schools. They provide policy guidelines and quality human element for training of the pupils. Higher education in Nigeria like in many other countries was conceived for the specialized manpower need for nation building, as well as promotion of economic development for self-reliance

(Nwoye, 2016). Government-university collaboration and the roles of the university brought a leeway for the proliferation of various universities in the countries. The steady upsurge in university establishment strengthens their collaboration and ideation, as well as creating more human capital to the government and society for economic recovery and acceleration of national economic development. Their collaboration helps in the appointment of trained and qualified administrative/management staff through policies. Appointment of this kind provides quality academic environment. That was the reason why Carryannis and Campbell (2006) stated that importance of policies and practices of government and university to be interacted each other intelligently, effectively and efficiently. It brings about knowledge expansion, diverse careers, education and national development. University education is achievable through effective collaboration as well as financing and funding of their various programmes and projects.

Funding of the university's programmes, projects and renovation of both antiquated and modern buildings as well as payment of academic and management staff remuneration is another fascinating areas of government-university collaboration. Adequate funding of the university, entire university system heightens the government and university relationship. Government-university collaboration enhances all the processes of acquiring and increasing the needed number of persons who have education, skills and training for further development. The university enjoys the splashy interaction of all levels of government, as their funds go a long way to setting their educational plights and earn them satisfaction.

Funding is an economic term that refers to the application of money as a resource input to any productive process (Isi, 2010). They opined that as a necessary part of the productive process, money applied in adequate measure is expected to positively influence productivity in quality and quantity. Funds that accrue from the government ought to be adequate to attract quality human capital development. This above promise has always spur the government to relatively satisfy the staff of the universities in paying their salaries, bonuses, allowances and other fringe benefits to get quality productivity from their services. Money remains the determinant factor to the success or failure of any organization. However, in Nigeria, the university enjoys financial leverage of the government. Ebong (2006), believes in this school of thought asserted that money is the fuel and lubricant which propels any business or social organization or activities to financed. It stimulates academic staff morale to carry out tasks effectively and efficiently.

Be it as it may, government-university collaboration in financing and funding of the entire university system is no more a controversy. According to Federal Republic of Nigeria in Ebong (2006), that education is an expensive social service and demands all tiers of government to give adequate financial support. The purpose of establishing the University of All Kinds is to develop human capital. Provision of adequate funds for the university is an antidote to circumvent decay in the process and programmes of the university in developing manpower. In the light of the above overview, the researchers examined the relationship between

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government-university collaboration and human capital formation in universities in Rivers State

The controversy over the under-development indicators: unemployment, disequilibrium balance of payment, unstable price level, illiteracy and lack of steady growth in national income facing Nigerian economy is becoming perennial economic saga. These underdevelopment indicators have become basic economic quandaries and setback to Nigerian nation. This saga have also succeeded in rating Nigerian economy among the poorest economy in the whole nation and has not been able to produce the required number of persons who have the skills, knowledge, capacities and competencies for curbing these adumbrated economic quandaries. These have also contributed in leading youths into various banditry operations, heinous crimes and other uncherished attitudes of the graduates instead of becoming employers of labour. Experiences have also shown that vital areas such as agriculture, manufacturing, mining and production sectors of the economy are lacking quality manpower which if graduates are filled in there, would have increased the number of human resources of the nation capable of accelerating the society. For the worries of these above plights, the public always lay blames to the university, while the university lays the blames to the government for their inability to establish an effective collaboration between them. In the light of the above overview, the researchers investigated the relationship between government-university collaboration and human capital formation in universities in Rivers State.

The aim of this study was to examine the relationship between government-university collaboration and human capital formation in universities in Rivers State of Nigeria. Specifically the study sought to:

- i. Ascertain the relationship between establishment of more universities and human capital formation in universities in Rivers State.
- ii. Examine the relationship between provision of adequate funding and human capital formation in universities in Rivers State.

The following research questions guided the study

1. What is the relationship between establishment of more universities and human capital formation in universities in Rivers State?
2. What is the relationship between provision of adequate funding and human capital formation in universities in Rivers State?

The following hypotheses were tested at 0.05 alpha level.

1. There is no significant relationship between establishment of more universities and human capital formation in universities in Rivers State.
2. There is no significant relationship between provision of adequate funding and human capital formation in universities in Rivers State

## Methodology

The study adopted a correlational survey design. Population of this study comprised Three Thousand One Hundred and Seventy Six (3,176) academic staff of the three public universities in Rivers State of Nigeria: The University of Port Harcourt (UPH), Rivers State University (RSU) and Ignatius Ajuru University of Education (IAUOE). A sample size of two hundred and forty four (244) academic staff were drawn from the entire population representing 8% of the population using a stratified random sampling technique. Modified Likert four points scale instrument titled Government-University Collaboration Scale (GUCS) and Human Capital Formation Scale (HCFS) developed by the researchers were validated by two experts in the Department of Educational Psychology (measurement and Evaluation), and were used for data collection. The reliability coefficients of government-university collaboration scale and human capital formation scale were 0.92 and 0.94 respectively using Cronbach alpha statistical method. Two hundred and forty four (244) copies of the instruments were administered and retrieved for data analysis. The data generated with the instruments were analyzed. Research questions were answered using Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient (r), which the hypotheses were tested using Pearson Product Moment Coefficient (r) at the probability of 0.05 level of significance.

## Results

**Research question 1:** What is the relationship between establishment of more universities and human capital formation in universities in Rivers State?

**Hypothesis 1:** There is no significant relationship between establishment of more universities and human capital formation in universities in Rivers State.

**Table 1: The relationship between establishment of more universities and human capital formation in universities in Rivers State**

Variables	n	df	r	Sig.	Level	Decision
				(2 Tailed)		
<b>Establishment of more</b>						
<b>universities</b>	244	242	0.88	0.02	0.05	HO <sub>1</sub> Rejected
<b>Human capital formation</b>						

Table 1 revealed that the Pearson product moment correlation coefficient of the relationship between establishment of more universities and human capital formation in universities in Rivers State was calculated to be 0.88. The result showed that there is a high positive relationship between establishment of more universities and human capital formation in universities in Rivers State. This implies that an increase in the independent variable (establishment of more universities) leads to a corresponding increase in the dependent variable (human capital formation).

In testing the hypothesis, the correlation coefficient ( $r = 0.88$ ) between establishment of more universities and human capital formation is high and positive. The significant value of 0.02 ( $P < 0.05$ ) reveals a significant relationship. Based on that, the null hypothesis was rejected. Therefore, there is a significant relationship between establishment of more universities and human capital formation in universities in Rivers State.

**Research question 2:** What is the relationship between provision of adequate funding and human capital formation in universities in Rivers State?

**Hypothesis 2:** There is no significant relationship between provision of adequate funding and human capital formation in universities in Rivers State.

**Table 2: The relationship between provision of adequate funding and human capital formation in universities in Rivers State**

Variables	n	df	r	Sig.	Level	Decision
				(2 Tailed)		
<b>Provision of Adequate funding</b>						
	244	242	0.89	0.01	0.05	HO <sub>2</sub> Rejected
<b>Human capital formation</b>						

Table 2 revealed that the Pearson product moment correlation coefficient of the relationship between provision of adequate funding and human capital formation in universities in Rivers State was calculated to be 0.89. The result revealed that there is a high positive relationship between provision of adequate funding and human capital formation in universities in Rivers State. This implies that an increase in the independent variable (provision of adequate funding) leads to a corresponding increase in the dependent variable (human capital formation). In testing the hypothesis, the correlation coefficient ( $r = 0.89$ ) between provision of adequate funding and human capital formation is high and positive. The significant value of 0.01

( $P<0.05$ ) reveals a significant relationship. Based on that, the null hypothesis was rejected. Therefore, there is a significant relationship between provision of adequate funding and human capital formation in universities in Rivers State.

## **Discussion of Findings**

### **Establishment of more Universities and Human Capital Formation**

The findings of this study showed that there is high positive relationship between establishment of more universities and human capital formation in universities in Rivers State. The findings agrees with the assertion of Nwoye (2016), That Higher education (university) in Nigeria like in many other countries was conceived for the specialized manpower need for national building as well as promotion of economic development for self-reliance.

### **Provision of Adequate Funding**

The findings of this study showed that there is a significant relationship between provision of adequate funding and human capital formation in universities in Rivers State. It implies that funds have various vital roles to play in the areas of human capital development, therefore, should be applied in adequate measures. The findings agrees with the assertions of Ebong (2006), and Agabi and Onyeike (2008).

## **Conclusion**

From the findings of the study, it was concluded that there is a high relationship between government-university collaboration and human capital formation in universities in Rivers State. It is also agreed that government-university collaboration in establishment of more universities and provision of adequate funding will bring about effective human capital formation in universities in Rivers State, Nigeria.

## **Recommendations**

1. Government should establish more universities that will have business schools, sports institute, petroleum institute and ICT training centers.
2. Government should allocate adequate funds to existing universities in Rivers State for appropriate training and development of manpower.
3. University management staff should ensure appropriate allocation of funds accruing to the universities to the appropriate areas.
4. Government and universities should ensure that lecturers enjoy adequate conditions of service to ensure quality of universities programme delivery.

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