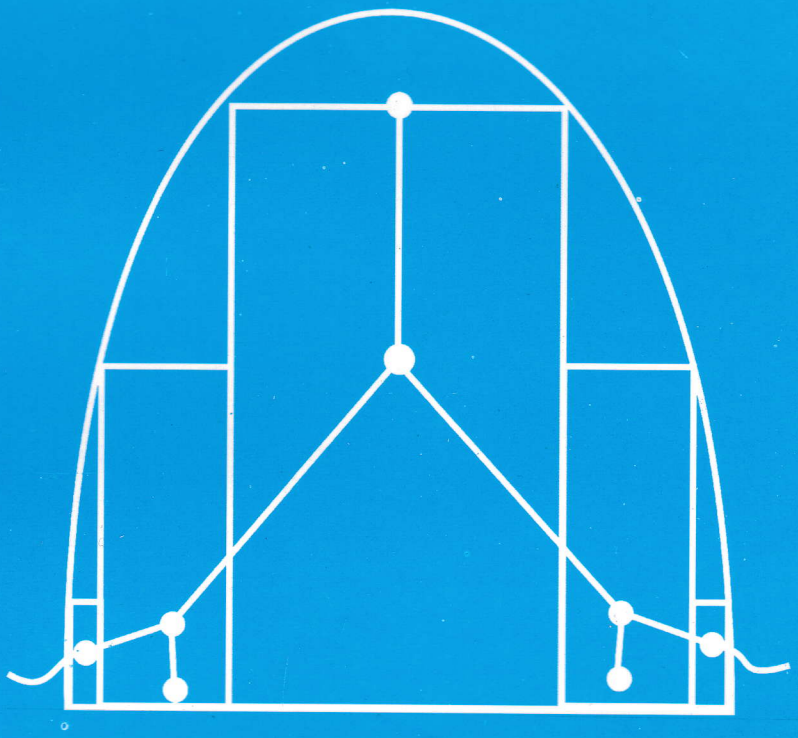
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Analysis of Social Cost of Basic Schools in Osun State, Nigeria

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Abstract
This study analysed social cost of basic school education in Osun State of Nigeria between 2010 and 2017. The study adopted ex-post facto survey research design. The study comprised of all the 1501 basic schools in Osun State. Data were collected with the use of a self-designed checklist titled "Social Cost of Basic Education Checklist" (SCBEC) and were analysed using percentages. The findings of the study revealed that there was a fluctuating trend of social cost of basic school education in Osun State between the years 2010 and 2017; that less portion of the total allocation to basic schools in Osun State was invested on recurrent social cost (4% to 8%) and showed that capital social cost received huge share of the total allocation into basic school education in Osun State (92%-96%) within the years under reviews. Based on the findings, the study recommended, among others, that government should consider inflationary trend while planning the total amount to be allocated to basic schools in the state.

Key Words: Social Cost, Recurrent Cost, Capital Cost, Basic Schools

Introduction

Globally, education is the motor of social and cultural change, its importance for communal development cannot be over-emphasized. All nations in the world

depend on education for survival socially, culturally, religiously, technologically and morally. Hence, all arms of government must not handle educational matters with levity. In Nigeria, basic schools serve as the foundation for secondary and tertiary education and because of this, government contributes immensely to its programmes financially. The government of Nigeria have long realized and recognized the importance of investing in education. In its broad usage, cost is an amount that is paid or spent in order to buy or obtain something. Cost is the amount or equivalent paid or charged for something (Mundi & Odebero, 2014). Cost is the expenditure on something, such as time or labour, necessary for the attainment of a goal (Cost, 2015). Cost in education represents the real resources in terms of money and sacrifices that are used up to produce an educated person. Generally, costs in education are classified into social and private costs. To Akpotu (2008), social cost represent social investment or government expenditures on education while private costs are costs incurred by the individuals or their households. Social and private costs are further divided into direct and indirect costs. Direct social and direct private costs which refer to the actual direct expenditures by governments and individual or their parents in providing education.

The direct social cost of education which is the focus of this study is further distinguished as recurrent social cost (RSC) and capital social cost (CSC), both added together to give the total social cost (TSC) of education, i.e. TSC=RSC+ CSC. Recurrent social costs can be defined as the cost which either an institution or/a government spends on operating or maintaining the education system. It includes expenditures on salaries and allowances of teaching and non-teaching staff, scholarship and stipend paid to the students, repair and maintenance of building and equipment, hostel expenses, cost for conducting games and sports activities, cost of conducting examinations, and expenses on consumables (chemicals etc.) and contingencies (Chitra & Lodha, 2013). Capital cost is a one-time expenditure, because, the cost is not renewable within a budgetary year. It includes expenditures on items that can serve the organization for a long period of time.

Governments invest huge amounts of money on education, being the largest growth industry in the world. It is however astonishing that so litte is known about the level of government spending on basic education in Osun State. It is based on this background that this study analysed social cost of basic school education in Osun State, Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

The relevance of basic education to national development is immeasurable as it is the bedrock for higher systems of education. In fact, without the existence of basic schools in the country, the achievement of goals of all sub-systems of education will be in jeopardy. Furthermore, many educational stakeholders do have interest on what government is spending on secondary and tertiary education, neglecting that of basic education. It is based on this fact, this study analysed social cost of basic.

The issue of government spending on basic education is now a debatable topic

amongst educational scholars, researchers, policy formulators and the school heads. Many researches that are related to government expenditure on education in Nigeria have been addressed within and outside the country. For instance, Akpotu (2008) conducted a study on social cost analysis of secondary education in South West, Nigeria (1996-2001). Another study was conducted by Lerotholi (2001) that centred on tuition fees in primary and secondary education in Lesotho. Anisiudo (2015) carried out study on cost of students' senior secondary education in Anambra State, Nigeria.

However, to the best knowledge of the researchers, no research work has been carried out on the analysis of social cost on basic school education in Osun State. Therefore, it is based on the above issue, it becomes imperative to carry out a comprehensive analysis of the social cost on basic education in Osun State so as to determine the flow of government expenditure towards the basic education development in the State.

The purposes of the study were to;

1. analyse the trend of social cost of basic school education in Osun State between 2010 and 2017.
2. examine the rate of recurrent social cost of basic school education Osun State between 2010 and 2017.
3. determine the rate of capital social cost of basic school education in Osun State between 2010 and 2017.

Research Questions

The following research questions were raised to guide the study:

i. What is the trend of social cost of basic school education in Osun State between 2010 and 2017?
ii. What is the rate of recurrent social cost of basic school education in Osun Sate between 2010 and 2017?
iii. What is the rate of capital social cost of basic school education in Osun Sate between 2010 and 2017?

Significance of the Study

The findings of this study will be of benefit to students, parents/guardians, school principals and government. Students in basic schools in Osun State will benefit from the outcome of this study as it recommends to the government to allocate more funds to the students which will later assist students academically.

Parents/guardians of students in basic schools in Osun State will benefit from the findings of this study by becoming aware of the government expenditure on basic school education in the State and to evaluate the performance of the government for basic schools development.

It is also hoped that the findings of study will be useful to school principals as it will help them realize the need to efficiently and effectively utilize the funds allocated to them by the government.

Finally, this study will be helpful to the government as it will bring to their awareness the reason to provide funds to the basic schools in order to cater for their needs.

Scope of the study

This study focused on analysis of social cost of basic school education in Osun State, Nigeria. The study covered all the basic schools (junior and upper) in the thirty Local Governments Areas in the State.

The instrument used for the data collection was a self-designed checklist titled "Social Cost of Basic Education Checklist" (SCBEC) with 0.72 for its reliability.

Descriptive statistics of percentage was used to answer all the research questions raised while chart was also used to represent the results of the study.

Methodology

The design of this study was ex-post facto survey research design. This is because, ex-post facto survey research design is a method of teasing out possible antecedents of events that have happened and cannot be controlled, engineered or manipulated by the investigator.

The study comprised of all the 1,501 basic schools in the thirty Local Government Areas of the State. Data were collected for this study with the aid of a self-designed instrument titled "Social Cost of Basic Education Checklist"(SCBEC) with 0.72 for its reliability.

The researcher personally visited Osun State Ministry of Economic, Budget and Development Planning and Osun State Universal Basic Education Board where the needed data were collected for this study.

Descriptive statistics of percentage was used to answer all the research questions raised while chart was also used to represent the results of the study.

Presentation and Analysis of Results

Research Questions 1: what is the trend of social cost of basic school education in Osun State between 2010 and 2017?

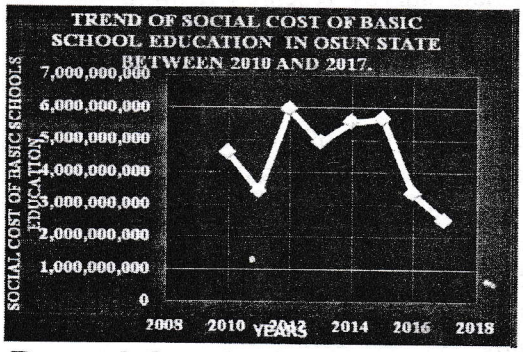
Data collected from the checklist were collated and analysed as shown in **Table** 1

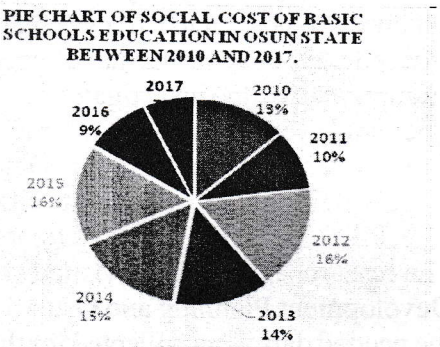
Table 1: Trend of Social Cost of Basic School Education in Osun State between 2010 and 2017.

Year	Total Budget ₦	Social Cost of Education ₦	(%) of Education to the Total Budget %	Social Cost of Basic Schools Education ₦	(%) of Social Cost of Basic Schools Education to Social Cost of Education	(%) of Social Cost of Basic Schools Education to The Total Budget
2010	114, 489, 750, 324	36, 988, 553, 220	32	4, 587, 770, 000	12	4
2011	102, 864, 633, 360	33, 712, 021, 860	33	3, 391, 369, 500	10	3
2012	150, 124, 621, 880	48,562, 061,220	32	5, 934, 170, 000	12	4
2013	234, 269, 308, 820	40, 773, 668, 140	17	4, 920, 550, 500	12	2
2014	234, 420, 419, 260	53, 309, 765, 450	22	5, 547, 935, 500	10	2
2015	201, 740, 360, 700	38, 576, 516, 450	19	5, 646, 728, 580	15	3
2016	141, 276, 122, 230	34, 458, 542, 670	24	3, 331, 269, 580	10	2
2017	146, 632, 746, 980	38, 313, 716, 570	26	2, 508, 121, 350	7	2

Source: Osun State Ministry of Economic, Budget and Development Planning

Table 1 shows a fluctuating trend of social cost of basic education in Osun State between the year 2010 and 2017. The table reveals that the highest proportion of the social cost of education was devoted to basic school education in 2015 with 15 percent, while the lowest proportion of social cost of education was devoted to basic schools in 2017 with just 7 percent. While the proportion of basic school education fluctuated in 2010 and 2015 which is attributed to economic constraints of inflationary trend and the competing needs of the other levels of education in the State. It drastically declined between the year 2016 and 2017 respectively.





Research Question 2: what is the rate of recurrent social cost of basic education in Osun State between 2010 and 2017?

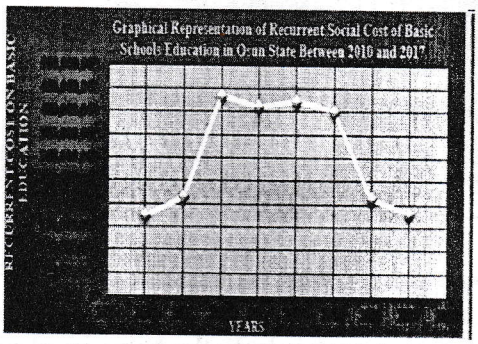
Data collected from the checklist were collated and analysed as shown in **Table 2**

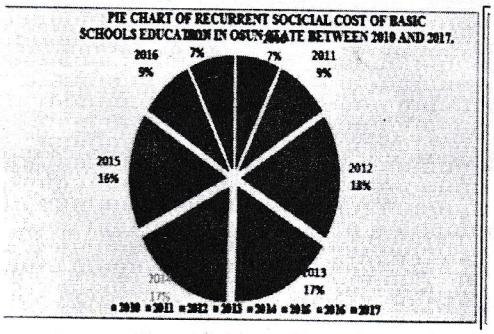
Table 2: Rate of Recurrent Social Cost of Basic School Education in Osun State between 2010 and 2017

Year	Total Expenditure of Basic School ₦	Recurrent Social Cost of Basic Schools Education ₦	Percentage of Recurrent Social Cost of Basic Education (%)
2010	4, 587, 770, 000	173, 770, 000	4
2011	3, 391, 369, 500	214, 369, 500	6
2012	5, 934, 170, 000	434, 170, 000	7
2013	4, 927, 550, 500	412, 050, 500	8
2014	5, 547, 935, 500	423, 935, 500	8
2015	5, 646, 728, 580	401, 723, 580	7
2016	3, 331, 269, 580	212, 839, 580	6
2017	2, 508, 121, 350	181, 195, 170	7

Source: Osun State Ministry of Economics, Budget and Development Planning, 2018

Table 2 shows the percentage of Recurrent Social Cost (RSC) of basic school education in Osun State. Form the table, it is observed that little amount of money was collected to carry out reduction in investment of recurrent social cost on basic school education to 7% in 2015 from 8% in the preceding year and also witnessed another decrease to 6% in 2016 as a result of half payment of staff salaries.

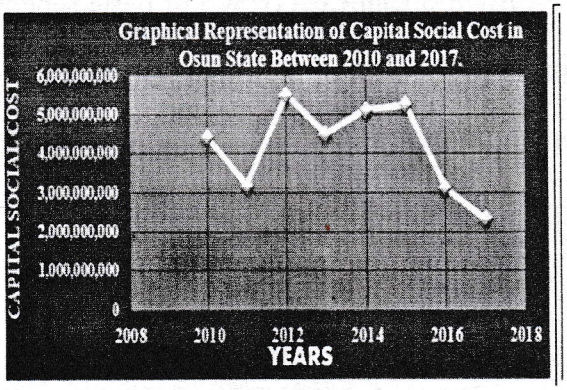


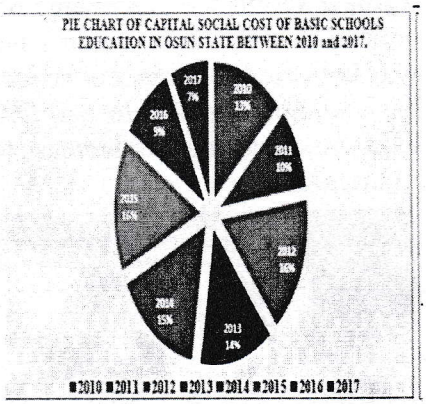


Research Question 3: what is the rate of Capital Cost of Basic School Education in Osun State between the years 2010 – 2017?
Data collected from the checklist were collated and shifted as shown in table 3.

Year	Total Expenditure of Basic School ₦	Capital Social Cost of Basic Schools Education (₦)	Percentage of Capital Social Cost of Basic Education (%)
2010	4, 587, 770, 000	4, 414, 000, 000	96
2011	3, 391, 369, 500	3, 177, 000, 000	94
2012	5, 934, 170, 000	5, 500, 000, 000	93
2013	4, 927, 550, 500	4, 515, 500, 000	92
2014	5, 547, 935, 500	5, 124, 000, 000	92
2015	5, 646, 728, 580	5, 245, 000, 000	93
2016	3, 331, 269, 580	3, 118, 430, 000	94
2017	2, 508, 121, 350	2, 326, 926, 180	93

Table 3, shows the percentage of capital social cost of basic school education in Osun State. As observed from the table, capital social cost received huge share of the total allocation into basic school education in Osun State as the least of the percentage received is 92% and the highest percentage is 96% within the years under review.





Discussion of Findings

The findings of the study as revealed in **table 1** showed a fluctuating trend of social cost of basic school education between the years 2010 and 2017 as a result of some factors influencing the costn of education particularly the basic level of education. This study is in line with Kose and Guven (2007) who found out that inflation had a significant impact on government spending on education. This implies that inflationary trend has to be considered while planning the total amount to be spent on basic education.

The findings as revealed in **table 2** showed that less portion of the total allocation to basic schools in Osun State is invested on recurrent social cost as the percentage ranges from 4% to 8% within the years under review. The study agrees with Oriakhi and Grace (2014) that recurrent expenditure in the state is not enough to go round for what it is meant for and that the facilities are not well maintained; members of staff are poorly motivated in terms of low salaries; all these lead to decline in literacy rate.

The findings revealed in table 3 showed that capital social cost received huge share of the total allocation into basic school education in Osun State as the least of the percentage received is 92% and the highest percentage is 96% within the years under review. Oriakhi and Grace (2014) asserted that with the growing rate of population increase, more investment should be devoted to capital social cost through the provision of more educational facilities, buildings of more schools in order to avoid overcrowding of the available schools and educational facilities. This implies that educational facilities, well-constructed and equipped classrooms would be available in basic schools in Osun State.

Conclusion

The study focused on social cost of basic schools education in Osun State between the years 2010 and 2017. From the findings of the study, the following conclusion can be deduced that; there was a decline in the expenditure of basic school from N4, 587,770,000 in 2010 to N3, 391,369,500 in 2011, the basic schools expenditure rose again between 2012 and 2015, and later declined in

2016 and 2017. The fluctuation in proportion of expenditure devoted to basic education could be attributed to economic constraints and the competing needs of other sectors of the economy

Recommendations

1. Government should consider inflationary trend while planning the total amount to be allocated to basic schools in the state.
2. Recurrent expenditure should be increased since it covers payment of teacher's salaries and maintenance of already existing equipment and buildings.

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