

# Repositioning the Funding of Adult and Non-formal Education (ANFE) in Anambra State, Nigeria.

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## Abstract

*The need for repositioning the funding of adult and non-formal education (ANFE) in Anambra State cannot be overlooked as manpower and material resources needed for such programmes can be acquired when there is adequate funding. The study focused on the repositioning the funding of ANFE in Anambra State. Descriptive survey research design was adopted in this study, guided by three research questions. The population of the study comprised 331 instructors in all the government owned adult education centres in Anambra State. There was no sampling because the population was manageable. Questionnaire was the instrument for data collection which was validated by two experts in the Department of Adult and Continuing Education, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka. Cronbach Alpha was used to determine the internal consistency of the instrument and the overall reliability coefficient of 0.79 was obtained. Mean statistics was used to answer the research questions. The findings indicated that ANFE is funded to a low extent in Anambra State. The study also revealed that some of the challenges confronting ANFE in Anambra State include: difficulties in identifying budget meant for ANFE, lack of information on funding by individuals, inadequate funding by the government, among others. The study further showed that the strategies to be adopted in repositioning the funding of ANFE in Anambra State are: distinct budget allocation by federal and state government for ANFE, effective utilization of fund accruing to ANFE, assisting of ANFE through regular funding by international bodies and NGOs, among others. Conclusion was drawn and the study recommended that governments both federal and state should provide adequate support to ANFE, especially through proper funding and adequate monitoring of such funds.*

**Key words:** Repositioning, Funding, ANFE

## Introduction

Education is the bedrock for human and national development. Education plays a crucial role in the development of human personality. Nigeria has over the years initiated educational programmes in order to eradicate illiteracy which is one of the major barriers to human development, particularly among the adults. One of these educational programmes is the introduction of Adult and Non- Formal Education (ANFE) to enable adults, children and youths, who missed their earlier opportunity for formal education acquire knowledge and skills for better adaptation in the society. Mba (2014) noted that the recognition of

the fact that the work force of the nation is made up of adults and the fact that these adults cannot contribute to the development of the country beyond the level of their education prompted the Federal Government decision to include adults in Universal Basic Education (UBE) Programme.

Adult education according to Obidiegwu (2013) is defined as any educational activity be it formal, informal or non- formal designed for adults to enable them acquire knowledge and skills for self-sustenance. Afolabi (2012) is of the opinion that the purpose of adult education is to help move people from whatever level of consciousness they currently operate to a level of critical consciousness where they can ask questions about things around them as well as attain capacity to change their lives positively to the benefit of the society. On the other hand, Obiozor and Madu (2014) defined Non formal education as *‘any planned and organised education activity or training outside the framework of the formal school system. It is geared towards meeting the needs of the specific groups, such as dropout, illiterate men and women, farmers, children and youths, workers or other marginalized group, for the purpose of raising their consciousness and improving their standard of living’* (p. 20).

ANFE therefore, is a continuous process of education for acquisition of wide – range of experiences in and out of school in all facets of life. It is a life saver and can be seen as related to the concept of recurrent and lifelong learning.

More so, the FGN (2013) in recognition of the relevance of ANFE in Nigeria outlined the following objectives in its National Policy on Education as; The provision of functional literacy and continuing education for the adults and youths, provision of functional and remedial education for the dropouts, further education for different categories of completers of formal schools, in-service, on the job, vocational and professional training for different categories of workers and the necessary aesthetics, cultural and civic education for public enlightenment.

However, the realization of the above objectives depends greatly on adequate funding for effective implementation by different states of the federation. Oluchi as cited in Onwuadi (2012) observed that insufficient funds by the government remain the most outstanding disincentive in ANFE programmes and due to lack of funding the education offered in ANFE represents very poor and second-class education. In the same vein, Hanachor and Needom (2014) stated that inadequate funds to run ANFE programmes in Nigeria seems to be the most hindrance to the promotion of the sector. Hanachor and Needom further noted that one other difficulty is that both government and non- governmental organisations are usually reluctant to reveal information on their finances. The consequences of this problem is that there may be lack of researched information on the economic and financing of adult education and related activities.

To buttress further, Abu and Fabumni (2005) asserted that the successful planning and implementation of ANFE programmes depends largely on the availability of funding by the government and NGOS. Gbadamosi, Onuoha and Nwosu (2013) stressed that many governments sponsored adult education programmes have been chronically anaemic due to inadequate funding and poor implementation as a result of lack of information and vision for ANFE as a strategy goal and instrument for national development. Similarly, Jaiyeoba (2007) submitted that much of the funds being injected into ANFE may not be properly accounted for, thus, the whole purpose of such funds may be defeated. Hence, accountability and proper management of such funds is a vital tool for the success of ANFE programmes.

These submissions imply that provision of adequate funding for effective running of ANFE programmes could enhance the status of the programmes in Nigeria and Anambra state in particular.

Recently, in Anambra state, it was reported that the state government has established 283 adults and non-formal education centres in the state (Nzeagwu, 2019). This was done in a bid to give opportunity to adults who were not privileged to attend formal education. This is a welcome development and a demonstration of the level of importance attached to ANFE. The question is: How much funds was released by the state government to run those centres established? Funding has always been a major constraint to the development and progress of ANFE. For instance, in an interaction with some instructors in the centres, many expressed their negative feelings on the N4, 500.00 paid as monthly stipend which sometime does not come at and when due. All these constitute a gap that needs to be bridged. It is possible that these problems could be reversed if appropriate strategies are employed in handling the budget meant for ANFE in the state. It is on this background that the researchers focussed on repositioning the funding of ANFE in Anambra state for better enhancement of the programmes.

## **Purpose of the Study**

The main purpose of the study was to reposition the funding of ANFE in Anambra state, Nigeria. Specifically, the study determined:

1. The extent ANFE is funded in Anambra state
2. The challenges confronting the funding of ANFE in Anambra state
3. The strategies in repositioning the funding of ANFE in Anambra state.

## **Research Questions**

The following research questions guided the study:

1. To what extent is ANFE funded in Anambra state?
2. What are the challenges confronting the funding of ANFE in Anambra state?
3. What are the strategies for repositioning ANFE in Anambra state?

## **Materials and Methods**

A descriptive survey research design was used for the study. This design was adopted because the researchers were interested in finding out the opinions of instructors on the funding of ANFE in Anambra state with a view to repositioning it. The population of the study consisted of 331 instructors in all the government own adult education centres in Anambra state. There was no sampling because the population was manageable. Questionnaire was used for data collection which was validated by two experts. Cronbach alpha technique was used to determine the internal consistency of the instrument. The reliability of 0.81, 0.72 and 0.84 were obtained in the three clusters. The overall reliability was 0.79 indicating a high reliability. Out of 331 copies of the questionnaire distributed to instructors during their three days' capacity building workshop with the help of two research assistants, only 286 copies were rightly completed and returned which was used for the analysis. The weighted mean was used to answer the research questions.

Boundary limit was used to answer research question one with response categories of Very High Extent (VHE) 3.5 - 4.00, High Extent (HE) 2.5 – 3.49, Low Extent (LE) 1.5 - 2.49) and Very Low Extent (VLE) 1- 1.49 while the response mode of Strongly Agree (SA) - 4, Agree (A) - 3, Disagree (D) - 2 and Strongly Disagree (SD) -1 was used for research questions two and three. A criterion mean of 2.50 was used as decision rule to answer research questions two and three. This means that any item with a weighted mean value of 2.50 and above was considered agree while any mean below 2.50 was considered disagree.

## Results

### Research Question One

To what extent is ANFE funded in Anambra State?

Table 1: Mean Scores on the Extent to which ANFE is Funded in Anambra State.

SN	Extent of Funding ANFE	VHE 4	HE 3	LE 2	VLE 1	Total Score	Mean n=285	Decision
1.	Government provides funding of ANFE in the State.	20 40	65 195	80 160	120 120	285 555	1.95	LE
2.	NGOs such as UNESCO, World Bank, UNDP fund ANFE in the State.	10 40	16 48	120 240	139 139	285 467	1.64	LE
3.	Philanthropists aids the funding of ANFE.	100 400	150 450	20 40	15 15	285 905	3.18	HE
4.	Adult learners contribute money for the funding.	59 236	40 120	60 120	126 126	285 602	2.11	LE
5.	Centres generate internal revenue for the development of the programme.	55 220	70 210	70 140	90 90	285 660	2.32	LE
6.	Community members contribute funds for the programme.	40 160	48 144	17 34	180 180	285 518	1.82	LE
	<b>Grand mean</b>						<b>2.17</b>	<b>LE</b>

Table 1 shows that items 1,2,4,5 and 6 have mean scores of 1.95, 1.64, 2.11, 2.32 and 1.82 respectively. These means fall within the decision rule of low extent. The table also shows that item 3 has mean score of 3.18, which is within the decision rule of high extent. The grand mean of 2.17 is also within the decision rule of low extent. This implies that adult and non-formal education is funded to a low extent in Anambra State.

### Research Question Two

What are the challenges confronting the funding of ANFE in Anambra State?

Table 2: Mean Scores on the Challenges confronting the Funding of ANFE in Anambra State.

SN	Challenges of Funding ANFE	SA 4	A 3	D 2	SD 1	Total Score	Mean n=285	Decision
7.	Difficulties in identifying budgets meant for ANFE.	160 640	60 180	40 80	25 25	285 925	3.25	Agree
8.	Lack of information on funding by individuals.	155 620	75 225	38 76	17 17	285 938	3.29	Agree
9.	Inadequate funding by the government.	172 688	113 339	- -	- -	285 1027	3,60	Agree
10.	Lack of political will to fund ANFE.	146 584	80 240	50 100	9 9	285 933	3.27	Agree
11.	Inadequate information on sharing of fund for ANFE by government agencies.	158 632	76 228	48 96	3 3	285 959	3.36	Agree
12.	Embezzlement by government officials.	175 700	65 195	45 90	- -	285 985	3.46	Agree
13.	Misconception of ANFE by government.	180 720	76 228	29 58	- -	285 1006	3.53	Agree
	<b>Grand mean</b>						<b>3.39</b>	<b>Agree</b>

Table 2 shows that all the items were agreed by the respondents as challenges confronting the funding of ANFE in Anambra State. This is because all have mean scores above the criterion mean of 2.50. The grand mean of 3.39 is also above the criterion of 2.50. The table indicates that difficulties in identifying budgets meant for the adults and non- formal education, lack of information on funding by individuals, inadequate funding by the government, misconception of ANFE by the government, among others are challenges confronting ANFE in Anambra State.

### Research Question Three

What are the strategies for repositioning ANFE in Anambra State?

Table 3: Mean Scores on the Strategies for Re-positioning the funding of ANFE in Anambra State.

SN	Suggested Strategies are:	SA 4	A 3	D 2	SD 1	Total Score	Mean N=285	Decision
14.	Allocation of distinct budget by the federal and State government for ANFE.	183 732	70 210	30 60	2 2	285 1004	3.52	Agree
15.	Effective utilization of fund accruing to ANFE	175 700	85 255	10 20	15 15	285 990	3.47	Agree
16.	Assisting of ANFE through regular funding by international bodies.	125 500	90 270	60 120	10 10	285 900	3.16	Agree
17.	Improving in the funding of ANFE in the state by NGOs.	155 620	96 288	34 68	- -	285 976	3.42	Agree
18.	Individuals should bear the cost of their education.	40 160	48 144	122 244	75 75	285 623	2.19	Disagree
19.	Stakeholders in education, institutions and private sectors should assist in the funding of ANFE.	168 672	76 228	30 60	11 11	285 971	3.41	Agree
20.	Proper monitoring of the fund released for ANFE in the state	190 760	85 255	10 20	- -	285 1035	3.63	Agree
21	Internally generated revenue should be adopted by different centres of ANFE.	186 744	75 225	24 48	- -	285 1017	3.57	Agree
	<b>Grand Mean</b>						<b>3.30</b>	<b>Agree</b>

Table 3 reveals that all the suggested strategies for repositioning ANFE in Anambra State were agreed by the respondents except item 18 with mean score below 2.19. The grand mean of 3.30 is also within the decision rule of agree. This implies that allocation of distinct budget by the federal and state government for ANFE, effective utilization of fund accruing to ANFE, assisting of ANFE through regular funding by international bodies, proper monitoring of funds released to ANFE, among others, are some of the suggested strategies to be adopted in repositioning ANFE in Anambra State.

## Discussion

The findings in research question 1 revealed that adult and non- formal education in Anambra State is funded to a low extent. This indicates that ANFE is not properly funded in the state. This finding

is in line with the views of Oluchi as cited in Onwuadi (2012) that insufficient funds remain the most outstanding disincentive in ANFE programmes in Nigeria and due to lack of funding, the education offered in Adult education programmes represents very poor and second-class education. This finding corroborates with the assertion of Nke, Abua and Eneh (2018) that financing adult education in Nigeria generally is very inadequate and as such adult education administrators are faced with the problem of how to allocate scarce and limited resources at their disposal for the smooth running of the programmes.

The findings in research question 2 showed that there are lots of challenges confronting the funding of ANFE in Anambra State. These challenges include; difficulties in identifying budgets meant for ANFE, lack of information on funding, inadequate funding by the government, embezzlement of funds by government officials, among others. This affirms Hanachor and Needom (2014) submission that inadequate funds to run ANFE programmes in Nigeria seems to be the most hindrance to the promotion of the sector. Onuoha and Nwosu (2013) pointed out that many governments sponsored adult education programmes have been chronically anaemic due to inadequate funding and poor implementation as a result of lack of information and vision for ANFE as a strategy goal and instrument for national development. The authors further noted that embezzlement of funds meant for ANFE by some government officials constitute a challenge to the progress of ANFE. It is imperative to state that in many states of the federation, when funds are released by the federal government for a particular project, some government officials divert the funds to their own pockets; Anambra state is not an exception.

The findings in research question 3 revealed the strategies to be adopted by the state government in repositioning the funding of ANFE in the state. These strategies are; there should be distinct budget allocation by the federal and state government for ANFE, funding accruing for ANFE should be effectively utilized, international bodies and NGOs should assist regularly in financing ANFE, proper monitoring of the fund released for ANFE in the state, among others. This finding is in consonant with the opinion of Gbadamosi, Onuoha and Nwosu (2013) that if there is distinct budget allocation for ANFE in all the states, it will go a long way in improving the status of ANFE programmes. To buttress further, Olaye and Onajite (2015) asserted that considering the relevance of ANFE in nation building, international organisations, non-governmental agencies and individuals should participate in improving the status of ANFE programmes through the provision of adequate funding. In addition, Jaiyeoba (2007) suggested that there should be proper monitoring of the funds injected into ANFE for the achievement of its goal.

## **Conclusion**

From the findings of the study, it can be concluded that ANFE is funded to a low extent in Anambra state. Also, there are enormous challenges confronting the funding of ANFE in the state. These challenges include difficulty in identifying budget meant for ANFE, lack of information on funding, inadequate funding by the government, embezzlement of fund meant for ANFE by government officials, among others. Some of the suggested strategies in repositioning ANFE in Anambra state are that; there should be a distinct budget allocation by federal and state government for ANFE, funding accruing for ANFE should be effectively utilized, international bodies and NGOs should improve in their funding of the programmes,

among others. If these strategies are fully adopted, it will go a long way in repositioning ANFE in Anambra state.

## Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are made:

1. Government needs to provide a different budget allocation for ANFE in the state and when these funds are released, there should be proper monitoring of such funds.
2. International organizations, NGOs and individuals should assist regularly in the funding of ANFE in the state for the realisation of its objectives. This is because, no programme can be executed without funding.
3. There should be elimination of corruption from the body polity.
4. Proper accountability of funds released for ANFE in the state is important.

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