

# Review of: "Facility Management Challenges of Public Educational Facilities in Nigeria"

Alaa Musalam

**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

The objective of this research is to analyze the difficulties in maintaining and repairing essential built assets in higher education facilities in Nigeria. The study tries to pinpoint the causes of their deterioration and offer potential remedies and tactics to enhance their functionality and efficiency.

The study has concluded that the main challenges facing core built assets in higher education institutions in Nigeria are the lack of maintenance policies and the lack of proper maintenance during the initial stages of construction. These issues are considered critical in ensuring the proper functioning of these facilities

The TETFUND Act provides funding for the development of education and research in Nigeria, including the construction and maintenance of facilities in higher education institutions. However, the extent to which TETFUND funding covers the lifelong maintenance of these facilities is not specified in the Act and it may depend on the individual circumstances and needs of each institution. It is also possible that additional funding may be required to fully cover the lifelong maintenance of facilities in higher education institutions.

The study may recommend the development of financing strategies within TETFUND to include provisions for both short-term and long-term maintenance contracts. This would ensure that the maintenance of facilities in higher education institutions is properly funded and sustained over the long-term, which can help improve the effectiveness and optimal delivery of core functions in these institutions.

Based on the results of the study, it may be possible to suggest designing a model for the development of TETFUND that includes provisions for construction financing for higher education institutions with a quality system for receiving construction works, short-term maintenance plans, and long-term maintenance with an administrative control system. This model would help ensure that TETFUND funding is effectively used to support the maintenance and repair of built assets in higher education institutions over the long-term, leading to improved and optimal delivery of core functions.

The study may identify that one of the factors that prevent maintenance from being included in financing projects is the financial deficit of TETFUND. This lack of funding may limit the ability of TETFUND to fully support the maintenance and repair of built assets in higher education institutions, making it necessary to explore alternative financing options or increase the level of funding available to TETFUND (Umar et al, 2017).

The study may conclude that TETFUND has had a positive impact on the development of Nigeria's education system, with a specific focus on tertiary institutions (ENIANG & EKPENYONG, 2021). However, it is important to emphasize the

need for the judicious utilization of resources to ensure that TETFUND funding is used effectively and efficiently to support the maintenance and repair of built assets in higher education institutions. This will help ensure that the positive impact of TETFUND on education development is sustained over the long-term.

The study may identify a lack of effective internal control as a contributing factor to various issues within TETFUND, including wastage, embezzlement, misappropriation, and financial recklessness (Gofwan et al, 2022). This lack of control could increase the risk of losing significant portions of TETFUND's resources and may need to be addressed through the implementation of stronger internal controls and accountability measures to ensure the proper and efficient use of funding for the maintenance and repair of built assets in higher education institutions.

Umar, M., Umar, A. A., & Luba, A. K. (2017). Funding as a tool for Revitalizing University Education for Social Political and Economic Engineering in Nigeria.

ENIANG-ESIEN, D. R., & EKPENYONG, O. (2021). Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND) Involvements and Improvement of Universities in Cross River State, Nigeria: Implication on Educational Management.

GOFWAN, H., YASHIM, C. Y., & YUSUF, P. Y. (2022). Effect of Financial Control on Educational Sector Project Development: Evidence from Federal Polytechnic, Nasarawa.