



# Civil Society Action Coalition on Education For All (CSACEFA) Education Country Brief 2019

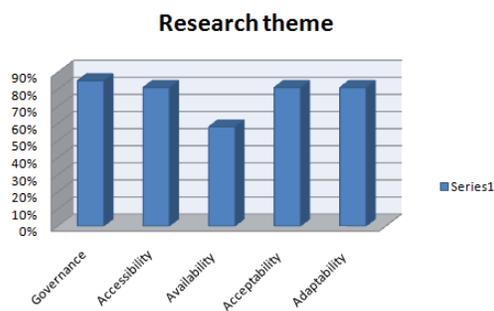
## Theme:

### ARE WE DOING ENOUGH FOR EDUCATION? TIME TO DELIVER ON YOUR PROMISES IS NOW: PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION INDEX FINDINGS, 2018

#### Introduction

Basic education in Nigeria has suffered a huge set back, despite the known gains of education, attention on issues around free quality and inclusive education, education financing, out of school children, learning outcomes still lack the needed attention. The effect of these is that, achieving education 2030 in line with the Sustainable Development Goal4 might face a serious challenge. The recent report by the Right to Education Index is an eye opener and a pointer to the directions and areas that needs serious attention on education in Nigeria especially in the area of Accessibility, Governance and Adaptability.

The Right to Education Index (RTEI) is a global



accountability initiative that aims to ensure that

all people, no matter where they live, enjoy their right to quality education. RTEI works with civil society organizations, research institutions, and governments to drive accountability and progress towards the right to education through global index built out of the international right education framework.

#### An overview of RTEI scores

In 2018, RTEI conducted in-country research in Nigeria on education issues. The research results placed Nigeria's overall index score at 69% indicating that, though Nigeria as a country has made significant improvement in the education sector especially in the areas of Governance and Availability, a lot needs to be done in the areas of Accessibility and Adaptability to the education environment. It therefore means that, enough attention has not been given to the free basic, quality and accessible education, education financing is still very low, there are still pockets of discrimination on the education of the marginalized and vulnerable, there is still an increasing number of children dropping out of school, and out of school education is very low and poses a serious educational and economic challenges to the country .It is quite impressive to know that the country has queued into the implementation of the SDGs in every sector, but



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a lot has to be done especially as it concerns goals 4 and 5. The learning outcome of Nigeria students is still not very palatable even though some states recorded high percent of students that passed external examination in 2018. However, putting what has been learnt to use is actually still a challenge.

We have therefore outlined the following issues in relation to RTEI findings.

#### **Education Financing**

The research finding indicated that, the level of education financing in the country has remained low. Based on the rating education financing is receiving low attention. What this means is that, it will be difficult if not impossible to achieve access to quality basic education as contained in the constitution and the Universal basic education. It then means that infrastructural development will suffer. This low attention translates to the fact that the national budget on education is low and the lack of the political will for states government to put in for the UBE matching grants for utilization.

The research could not access sufficient data on education financing in Nigeria even though the research was conducted using Nigeria country index on education financing in 2018. In 2018, Education received 7% of national budget which is considered very low compared to the educational needs of the country; this has gross effect on every aspect of education especially learning outcome. Though education is on the concurrent list and basic education resides with the local government. There is need for increase in education financing. This

#### **Accessibility of education**

Another key issue the RTEI research pointed out is that of accessibility. The research rated accessibility of basic education to be 58% in Nigeria, indicating that the country is still having some lapses in the area of accessing quality basic education. Findings from the research shows that the Nigeria has only attained 53% of the index on free education, which means that there are possibilities of hidden charges on education and the issue of discrimination among school age is still a challenge. In the area of participation in education, the research indicated that participation is not very high with index score of 72%. Efforts need to be put more to achieve complete participation of civil society and other





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education stakeholders especially the private sector.

and retention, completion is still a major challenge.



#### **Out of school children**

One other pertinent issue revealed by the research findings is increase in the number of out of school children. According to the 2018 RTEI research, the number of out of school children is on the increase placing the index on out of at 96%. What this means is that there is growing increase in the number of children who do not complete basic education in Nigeria. In fact, in a recent development, the executive secretary (ES) of Universal Basic Education at a public function admitted that the Number of out of school in Nigeria has increased from 10.5 million to 13.2 million recent. It is expected that with the new policies of the federal government on the home-grown school feeding programs, the countries out of school children would have dropped significantly. Though the country is said to have witnessed an increase in the rate of enrolment

#### **Availability of Teachers**

Currently learning outcomes in the country are reported to be low. This is mostly associated with the availability of certain factors like conducive learning environment (Class and staff rooms, sanitation, security in school and clean environment.), availability of qualified and the right number in schools and provision of text books. Key issue in this area is that of teachers' availability. Though the report indicates that teachers' availability has risen to 87%, this increase could be attributed to the recent government program on graduate teacher's intervention targeted at the secondary schools in the country. The basic education sector lack the required number of teachers, especially to accommodate inclusive education. With this non-availability and in most cases inadequacy, the available teachers are over loaded with responsibilities and as such the best needed of them cannot be given.

Away from teachers' availability in school is the issue of availability of books. The report from RTEI in 2018 indicated that, there are insufficient textbooks for children to use. What this means that children will not have access to books to learn with. CSACEFA in 2018 observed during



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one of school check visits, that children in the basic education lack text books and supplementary reading materials. Hardly will anyone find libraries at public basic schools. What this translates to is that textbooks are not made available to children to use. In fact, the result from the research conducted by RTEI could not obtain sufficient data on the availability of textbooks for students and in schools. This shows that children whose parents cannot afford prescribed text may never have access to reading textbooks all through the school period if they ever remain in school.

#### **Data Availability:**

As at the time of administering the questionnaire, data on the exact number of qualified teachers in school were not available.

There was also no section on the number of school aged children that are currently in school. The questionnaire only concentrated on the enrollment rate of students in the country.

#### **Recommendations:**

Based on the issues raised as revealed by the 2018 Right to Education Index, CSACEFA is making the following recommendation, of which if put into proper consideration will increase the level of learning outcome for the country, promote

and strengthen the gains of the SDGs and encourage girl child education.

1. Increase education financing: Education financing has suffered a lot of setback. In the 2018 national budget on education and for some years now, allocation to education has risen and fallen between 10% and 7%, and for three fiscal years, the allocation to education has remained fixed at 7% (N9.12trn in 2018, N7.298trn in 2017 and N6.06trn in 2016; N22.47trn total budget for these three years).
2. Very many states have refused to access Universal Basic Education Funds, which is the matching grant to support states in providing basic infrastructures for schools. There should be a stiff penalty on states that have refused to access these funds like pegging a timeline for states to access and utilize the funds after which the state will be penalized.



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3. Teachers Recruitment, training and retraining. Research have shown that the country is in serious shortage of not just qualified teachers, but the adequate number of teachers, and that is why in some schools in states, the ratio of teacher to students is 1 teacher to about 120 students. The government needs to up its game of providing incentives to teachers to encourage them to carry out their work diligently. Qualified teachers should be recruited in the right number.

