EMPIRICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE NATIONAL HOME-GROWN SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME OF THE MUHAMMADU BUHARI ADMINISTRATION, 2016-2021

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The home-grown school feeding programme was born out of the desire to reduce the malnutrition index recorded in Nigeria and at the same time help increase the rate of students' enrollment in school. This study is set against this background and is guided by two research questions and two objectives which includes to identify the challenges militating against the successful implementation of the national home-grown school feeding programe in Nigeria and to proffer strategies which can improve the national home-grown school feeding programme and other policy initiatives in Nigeria. The study adopted systems theory as it's framework of analysis and made use of secondary and primary data drawn mainly from journals, textbooks and other online materials. Survey research design and purposive sampling technique were adopted respectively in the study. The study administered 300 copies of research questionnaires to the three sampled Community Primary Schools across Nigeria out of which, 286 copies of questionnaires were retrieved and used for the analysis. Data were presented in tabular format and analyzed using simple percentage method. Study findings, amongst others proves that poor programme coverage, inadequate funding and high cost of food items are challenges facing the programme. Consequently, the study recommends, amongst others, that proper planning/management of the food vendors, improved standard and quality of food and coordinated food supply for each state can help the programme succeed.

I INTRODUCTION

One of the core duties of a state that justifies its existence and relevance is the provision of basic social services to its citizens. The provision of basic welfare services to the people underscores the fundamental essence of statehood. The above claim is summarily captured in section 14 (2b) of the 1999 constitution of the federal republic of Nigeria. It states thus: "the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government". Invariably, the delivery of social services by the government is the direct consequence of policy implementation. By implication, the latter is critical to the actualization of the former.

Over the years, majority of public opinion contributors have continued to ascribe the tardy pace towards the realization of Nigeria's national developmental goals to poor and less-yielding implementation of public policies and programmes. Implementation of public policies in Nigeria often turns out to be the bane of many well-designed policies. Characteristically, Lawson (2019) states that in Nigeria, a deliberately conceived penchant for less-detailed attention by policy makers and implementers to the successful implementation of policies; has continued to place the country in the doldrums of unsatisfactory leadership and poor governance. The idea of promoting and celebrating, just the conception and kick-starting of a public policy, even prior to its successful implementation has over time, been used as a hoodwinking strategy by the Nigerian leadership class on the citizenry. The national home-grown school feeding programme is one social investment policy initiated by the present Nigerian federal government to help reduce the high index of out of school children in the country.

The National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme (NHGSFP) according to Lawal et al. (2021), is part of the N500 billion funded social investment programme designed by the Federal Government to tackle poverty, improve the health and education of children and other vulnerable groups. The programme aims to feed over 24 million school children, which will make it the largest school feeding programme of its kind in Africa.

Nigeria has one of the highest burdens of childhood malnutrition. In fact, a report captured in the guardian newspaper by Lawal et al. (2021), states that malnutrition disorders affect more than 42 per cent of school children in the country and is responsible for 49 per cent absenteeism of primary school age children in Nigeria. More so, the report has it that the United Nations' agency, UNICEF, estimates that 2.5 million Nigerian children under the age of five suffer from severe malnutrition each year, with about half a million children dying from it. As part of his campaign promises in 2015, President Muhammadu Buhari thus launched the NHGSFP in June 2016. The target is to give pupils one free meal a day.

Reasoning *a priori*, it is obvious that the national school feeding policy is supposed to help reduce the malnutrition index recorded in Nigeria and at the same time help increase the rate of students' enrollment in school. If then this is the intention of the formulators of this programme, how has the programme faired since its commencement. Obi et al. (2008) averred that in most situations though, the formulators and designers of public policies in Nigeria may have a brilliant, genuine, forthright and positively-impactful policy plan, yet might be unaware of the political and systemic intricacies that surround the implementation of public policies in Nigeria. To Egonmwan (2009, p.28), this is a classic situation in Nigeria, where the objectives of framers of policies are often destabilized by an assemblage of powerful forces of politics and administration, coupled with the prevalence of high-level corruption. The attendant inadequacies, complexities and collapse that have characterized major public policy implementation approaches in developing countries, most especially Nigeria have helped to shift focus to the importance for planning unambiguously, administration of policy implementation in which sufficient concentration is given to such factors as political variable and organisational ability to implement and drive development projects.

Statement of the problem

Policy implementation programmes in Nigeria are characteristically replete with administrative failures and incompetence. Most striking in this circumstance are issues which border mostly on the lack of political will and commitment to embark on the pursuit of intensive plan towards a concrete goal achievement effort. Okunola (2021) states that despite the fact that primary education is officially free and compulsory, about 10.5 million Nigerian children are not in school. This implies that one out of every five of the world's out-of-school children is in Nigeria. This necessitates the need for Nigerian government to adopt various strategies to increase enrolment and completion rate in primary school. Indisputably, school feeding programme is an important social protection instrument that has been adopted in many countries of the world to improve learners' school attendance, attentiveness and performance.

In a bid to reduce the number of out-of-school children in the country, the Federal Government of Nigeria in 2016 launched the Home-Grown School Feeding programme, HGSFP, in public primary schools in 22 states of the federation. Federal Government-led N70 (0.17 USD) per day school feeding programme aims to increase enrolment rates, improve the nutritional and health status of primary school children, boost the income of farmers and provide empowerment opportunities for women (Okunola, 2021). However, inadequate funding and late payment of food vendors pose a great challenge to sustainability of the programme.

More so, Lawson (2019, p.5) decries the devastating consequences of the lack of political will on the part of government functionaries or political office holders as it were to implement policies. The lack of political will and haphazard commitment by political office holders to implement public policies which are fundamental to the basic developmental needs of the Nigerian State are solely responsible for the country's fragile economic stature. The widespread abandonment of visible government projects and programmes nationwide, in clear terms, attests to the extent to which the demonstration of lack of political will by political office holders has pervaded almost all strata of administrative systems in Nigeria's public space (Lawson, 2019).

Furthermore, the issues of political/bureaucratic corruption and nepotism adversely affect successful policy implementation. Hence, service delivery continues to experience monumental setbacks. Adamu and Rasheed (2016, p.3) assert that the tenets of public service which include honesty, integrity, loyalty, probity, accountability, transparency, impartiality, discipline, commitment, diligence, expertise and competence, among others have not only been violated by public officials but have also been eroded by political office holders, thus, paving way for the enrichment of the few who are in power and authority, and in turn, the impoverishment of majority of the citizens who are subjected to poverty, squalor, insecurity and violence. It is against this background that this study takes a critical assessment of the national home-grown school feeding programme of the Muhammadu Buhari- led administration.

Research questions

Upon the issues raised above, our study presents the following research questions:

   i. What are the possible challenges militating against the successful implementation of the national home-grown school feeding programme in Nigeria?

  ii. What are the strategies that can be adopted to improve the national home-grown school feeding programmes and other policy initiatives in Nigeria?

Objective of the study

The main objective of this study is to assess the success and challenges facing the implementation of the national home-grown school feeding programme of the Muhammadu Buhari led administration in Nigeria.

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Scope of the study

The time frame of this study is 2016 – 2021. This study is an appraisal of the national home-grown school feeding programme of the Muhammadu Buhari led administration. The geographical area of the study covers only Kaduna, Ibadan and Delta States in Nigeria.

II CONCEPTUAL REVIEW

Public Policy

There is no general definition of public policy. This is because scholars have over the years given their different perspective about the concept. But there is always a meeting point on the different definitions given by scholars over time. Public policy can be seen as the actions or inactions of government and policy implementation is the direct consequence of policy formulation.

To Basu (2004), public policy is a system or courses of action, regulatory measures, laws and funding priorities concerning a set of identified social problem. Public policy covers the actions and positions of government at different levels. It relates to the different regulatory measures and laws laid down by the government to guide a particular sector of the society at a particular point in time. Presthus cited in Obi et al. (2008) averred that public policy is a definite course or method of action, selected from alternatives and in the light of given conditions to guide and usually determine present and future decisions. For government to come up with a public decision at any time, it is possible to state that they must have selected from different policy alternatives the best of which will help to serve the general populace.

Furthermore, Ikelegbe (1996) defines public policy more explicitly as "the integrated course and programme of action that government has set and the framework or guide it has designed to direct actions and practice in certain problem areas". Accordingly, this study defines public policy as a set of laws or guiding principles that direct the actions of government, which enactment or promulgation is prompted by a widely canvassed public concern, over an identified but pertinent social issue.

Policy Implementation

Ahmed and Dantata (2016) define public policy implementation as the translation of policy objectives into concrete reality. When all the laws required to give effect to policies adopted have been put in place, the next logical stage is the actual implementation of policy. Implementation refers to the process of converting inputs, in terms of financial, information, and materials, technical, human, demand and support etc, into outputs -goods and services".

To Henry (2004), policy implementation summarily defines the essence of government as it relates to service delivery. He maintains that policy implementation from the public sector perspective is synonymous with the term 'government in action'. In his definition of the term, Egonmwan (2009) likens policy implementation with the relationship that exists between courtship and actual marriage. He explains that while policy formulation represents courtship, implementation stands for the actual marriage. In his emphasis, Egonmwan argues that all other preceding stages of public policy, without successful implementation would amount to efforts in futility. Hence, Anifowose and Enemuo (2000) opine that the performance of any government in authority is appraised by the quality of people-impacting developmental policies, successfully implemented.

Challenges of Policy Implementation in Nigeria.

To Eghe (2004, p.42) policy implementation in Nigeria over the years in Nigeria is bedeviled by numerous challenges all of which tend to affect the execution of most government programmes. He identified the following as challenges which hinder the success of most government policies in Nigeria:

i. **Lack of clear definition of goals**: Various governments in Nigeria have the tendencies of pursuing multiple goals. But lack of clarity and consistency of public policy often pose a challenge to the success of most government policies. Policy makers in Nigeria assume that they know the needs of the target groups whose social situation they are attempting to tackle. Where policy goals are not clear, implementation becomes difficult.

ii. **Lack of Continuity**: Change in government more often is accompanied by change in priorities. The situation tends to make implementation more difficult in terms of switch over to entirely different priorities and objectives which require new organizations, personnel, resources and technology which are not always easy to provide.

iii. **Lack of clear definition of responsibility and coordination**: Many policies in Nigeria require the involvement of many agencies at different levels of government. Instances include the policy on poverty reduction that was designed in phases and required the involvement of so many agencies across the three levels of government. Consequently, there is the near absence of a clearly spelt out distinction of responsibilities among these teeming agencies. The direct implication was seen in poor implementation of the goals of the programme.

iv. **CORRUPTION**: The corrupt tendencies of public office holders and politicians in connivance with policy implementers frustrate the successful implementation of public policies in Nigeria. This is clearly witnessed in the aspect of inflation of contract figures, diversion of funds meant for the implementation of authorized public policies and the deliberate delivery of poor services to the target beneficiaries.

Service Delivery

This aspect involves the final aspect of policy implementation. It entails the consummate process of channeling the proceeds of policy implementation to the target beneficiaries. This is the most tangible phase of the whole policy implementation course as the target population, beyond official endorsement of implementation on black and white, through feedback process attests to the successful implementation of policies by the government. In addition to this,

this is the period when the target beneficiaries of the said public policy confirm the quality, timeliness, appropriateness and relevance of the public policy to the masses (Ikelegbe, 1996).

The essentiality of this phase cannot be over-emphasized because this involves the point at which all complaints relating to dissatisfaction over ill-conceived or ill-implemented policies and programmes are comprehensively addressed during policy evaluation process.

The National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme of the Muhammadu Buhari Administration: An overview

In the year 2016, the presidency under the leadership of President Muhammadu Buhari launched the National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme, through the office of the Vice President, Prof. Yemi Osinbanjo. The Launching of the National School Feeding Programme was part of the larger social investment initiative of the Muahammadu Burhari-led administration in Nigeria. The target beneficiaries of the National School Feeding Scheme are primary school pupils in public primary schools throughout the federation.

According to Agbeze (2017), one of the objectives of the scheme is to encourage massive enrolment in public schools, throughout the federation, most especially for children born to poor parents. This is anticipated to serve as an incentive to induce the desire for increased children's enrollment into government schools so as to acquire basic education. Fafunwa (2004) informs that since Nigeria's transition from the military era to democratic administration since 1999, the government has been making yearly projection of at least, the enrolment of 3 million children in public primary schools under the Universal Basic Education Scheme. However, the projection has been falling short of expectation as majority of children, especially those born to poor parents cannot afford to enroll into public schools. The reason for this, according to Fafunwa is that most of these children either are found in farms or engaged in petty trades during school hours.

Again, the scheme is expected to widely encourage maximum degree of good nutrition for children. According to report by the United Nations International Children Education Fund (UNICEF) (2015), one out of every batch of twenty sampled school in Northern Nigeria are malnourished. This situation is traceable to the continuous rise in the poverty index; hence, the introduction of the school feeding programme became expedient to combat the trend. Imam (2003, p.4) observes that in spite of the introduction of free education under the Universal Basic Education scheme, some parents in the Northern part of Nigeria still compel their children to enlist in the Almajiri Quaranic Education where they can be allowed to roam around and beg for alms. The programme is also targeted at reducing mass drop out from school by pupils due to hunger and poverty.

The scope and coverage area of the programme: Udo (2019) states that originally, the programme was laid out in a master plan to cover the whole 36 states of the federation. However, in operation, the programme is yet to embrace coverage of most states, within the confines of the 31 projected states. It was reported that some states in the south-south region, specifically resorted to partially implementing the programme independently, separate from the central arrangement. The report claims that the coverage of the program is predominantly domiciled in the core northern states and south western states.

Lawal et al. (2021) reported that in Kano, about 1,225,804 pupils of public primary schools are currently captured in the scheme. Although the feeding programme is being rationed across the 44 local government areas of the state, the scheme is yet to cover millions of pupils in several public schools. More so, in Enugu state for instance, officials of the programme claimed that it is feeding pupils in 799 out of the 1200 public primary schools in the state, since it commenced in February 2017.

The issue of financing: With regards to financing, Udo (2019) reveals that the federal government of Nigeria since 2016 makes an annual budget of N500 billion for the programme. However, it was only N79.98 billion that was released for the programme in 2016. In 2017 and 2018, it was N140 billion and N250.4 billion respectively. The report shows that the federal government further split the budgeting to mean N70 per meal daily to feed over 9.7 million pupils in 53,715 government primary schools in 31 states. However, this claim was countered by the report, submitted by the News Agency of Nigeria- the later which conducted a field study (Agbeze, 2017). Their own version of the report claimed that respondents from the structured interviews carried out by the News Agency on the 9th of September 2017, in Kaura local government area of Kaduna state revealed that the federal government actually put the cost at N50 per meal for the pupils. According to the report, the breakdown of the total money includes N35 for the cost of preparing the meal and N15 as profit with some of the respondents complaining that the money food vendors receive for preparing the meals does not reflect market realities.

The issues of bureaucratic corruption: It is important to note that the programme's managers have being accused of corruption. Udoh (2019) averred that the corruption and morally decadent tendencies of public/ civil servants in the various government ministries, agencies and parastals tend to sabotage and frustrate the successful implementation of the scheme. His report claimed that the programme was originally designed to make the process of acquiring raw food items exclusively home grown. By this, it means that farmers are supposed to supply food items for the preparation of pupils' meals.

However, by virtue of deliberate incompetence and corruption induced tendencies, the civil servants who are saddled with these responsibilities, on account of the fact that they deliberately, through connivance with political office holders refuse to financially empower farmers to produce sufficiently, food supply by farmers become insufficient. As a result, they resort to patronising imported food items from the general market. According to this report, the act of withholding part or outright denial of funds to farmers has overtime, frustrated the efficient running of the scheme. In addition to

this, the report by Udoh (2019) also claims that teachers at the various primary schools where this programme is operated bribe some corrupt minded civil servants to double as teachers and food suppliers or cooks – a move which denies the engagement of many jobless Nigerians who should have benefited from the scheme by getting employed. Furthermore, in the area of bureaucratic corruption, Chinweuba (2017, p.2) informs that the high degree of lack of commitment, political/bureaucratic corruption, poor accountability, shoddy transparency and sheer administrative incompetence, have characterised the operational method of the National Home-Grown School feeding programme of the current administration.

III THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK
Systems Theory

This study is anchored on the Systems theory as propounded by David Easton. The latter's perspective of the systems theory is the most suitable for this study on account of its theoretical peculiarity to public governance. David Easton's idea of the systems theory is predominantly concerned with all aspect of administrative transpiring in the political cycle. David Easton explains the systems theory from the standpoint of its relationship with politics and administration.

Hence, according to Obi et al. (2008, p.27), David Easton defines a political system as "a system of interactions in any society through which binding or authoritative allocations are made and implemented in the form of policies and decisions. Opinions, views and aspirations are received into the system as inputs. The output goes back into the environment through a feedback mechanism, bringing about newly conceived demands. This process is represented in a diagram, thus:
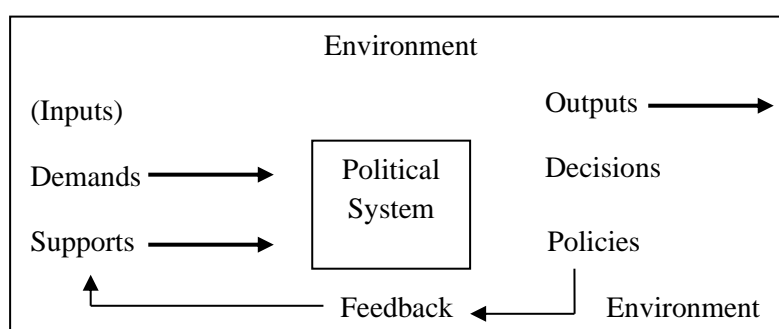
According to the information on the diagram, demands represent the inputs from which decisions are reached. Supports represent the driving force, in the form of actions which enable the political system to convert the demands into authoritative decisions or polices.

When applied to this study, the political system according to Vallacher and Nowaky (2007, p.22) really should use demands as a guide towards decisions on policies and programmes while supports will enable it to achieve its goals. Obi et al. (2008, p.28) contend that since the system cannot contain all types of demands, so as to prevent overload and stress, the structural mechanisms like political parties and personal group assume the role of intermediaries who distil information and allow only legitimate demands to enter the system.

It therefore becomes important for the political system to encourage the participation of all the stakeholders and citizens whose inputs are critical to the enactment of popular decisions. On the whole, demands undergo all the processes of legislative, executive and administrative organs of government. The administrative organs in this sense mean the bureaucratic organ which should comprise the various ministries and agencies of government. The national home-grown school feeding programme of the Muhammadu Buhari administration which is the study area of this research work is a programme which implementation must undergo the network of processes that characterize the systems theory.

IV METHODOLOGY

The population of this study is the entire teachers and administrators working in government- owned community primary schools in the 36 States of Nigeria. Although, sample size is drawn from Community Primary Schools in three (3) states, namely Kaduna in North-West, Ibadan in South-West and Delta in South-South Nigeria. Survey research design was used for the study while the sample sizes were purposively selected from the teachers and administrators from the three identified states in Nigeria based on their knowledge of the national home-grown school feeding programme in Nigeria. Crossman (2020) argued that purposive sampling is a non-probability sampling that is selected based on the character of a population and the objective of the study. The study administered 300 copies of research questionnaires to the 3 selected community primary schools and was able to retrieve 286 copies of the questionnaires without error. A total of 16 questionnaire items were raised on the subject of the challenges; and strategies to enhance policy implementation in Nigeria, and administered to the sampled population of the study. The data generated from the questionnaire items were presented in tabular frequency and analyzed using simple percentage method.

V DATA PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Table 1: Questionnaire Distribution

S/N	Sampled schools	State/ Region	Number of Questionnaires Distributed	Number of Questionnaires with errors	Number of Questionnaires Retrieved without errors and were used
1	Model primary school, BirninGwari, Bagoma	Kaduna (North West)	100 copies	6	94 copies
2	Ugboko primary school, Ugboko	Delta (South-South)	100 copies	3	97 copies
3	Community primary school, Obaseere	Ibadan (South West)	100 copies	5	95 copies
	Total		**300**	**14**	**286 copies**

Source: Field work, 2022

From table 1 above, it is clear that the study selected one community primary school each from three geographical regions within Nigeria. The schools are Model primary school, Birnin Gwari, Bagoma, Ugboko primary school, Ugboko and Community primary school, Obaseere. Each of the schools were sampled, and 100 copies of research questionnaires were administered to each of them, totaling 300 copies of the questionnaires administered for the study. A total of 286 copies of the questionnaire were retrieved successfully and used for the study. This represents 94 copies from Model primary school, BirninGwari, Bagoma, 97 copies from Ugboko primary school, Ugboko and 95 copies from Community primary school, Obaseere. This implies that a total of 14 copies of the questionnaires were not retrieved and were not used for the study.

Research Question 1: What are the challenges militating against the successful implementation of the national home-grown school feeding programme in Nigeria?

To answer the research question one above, data were collected from the respondents' responses on the possible challenges affecting and hindering the full implementation of the national home-grown school feeding programme in Nigeria as shown in table 2 below.

Table 2: Descriptive statistics on the possible challenges militating against the successful implementation of the national home-grown school feeding programme Nigeria?

S/n	Items	Yes	No	Total (n)	Percentage (%)
1	Inadequate funding	150 (52.5%)	136 (47.5%)	286	100
2	Late payment of food vendors	161 (56.3%)	125 (43.7%)	286	100
3	Poor programme implementation strategy	140 (48.9%)	146 (51.1%)	286	100
4	High cost of food items	176 (61.5%)	110 (38.5%)	286	100
5	Lack of political/leadership will	168 (58.7%)	118 (41.3%)	286	100
6	Political/ bureaucratic corruption among programme administrators	193 (67.5%)	93 (32.5%)	286	100
7	Poor food hygiene	156 (54.5%)	130 (45.5%)	286	100
8	Poor programme coverage	118 (41.3%)	168 (58.7%)	286	100

Source: Field work, 2022

The table 2 above indicates eight (8) challenges facing the national home-grown school feeding programme in Nigeria. Each of the challenges shown in table 2 above is noted with a percentage showing respondents responses on the matter. The challenges are analyzed below based on the respondents' responses on a simple percentage scale.

The study noted that among the challenges facing the programme is inadequate funding which has 52.5% of the respondent saying yes to the item and 47.5% disagreeing to the matter. With one hundred and fifty (150) respondents agreeing to the item, data proves that poor funding possess a setback to the success of the national programme and therefore affects negatively the rate of its efficiency. Late payment of food vendors has 56.3% of the respondent agreeing to the item while one hundred and twenty-five respondents representing 43.7% disagreed. Data therefore proves that the inability of the government to pay the food vendors promptly affects the programme negatively. Lawal et al. (2021) reports that in some states, it was recorded that the food vendors were seen lamenting and requesting for their payments to be made. This proves that late payment has the capacity to stall policy implementation. Also, the study shows that 51.1 % stated that poor programme implementation strategy isn't a challenge to the NHGSFP in Nigeria while 48.9% of the respondents agreed to the item.

Other findings prove that high cost of food items with 61.5% agreeing to the item; and lack of political and leadership will receive 58.7% respectively of the total respondents' responses. This indicates that as a result of the high cost of

food items, food vendors find it difficult to cover some of the entire pupils in some schools and that over time the government lack the political and leadership will to enforcing public policies in Nigeria. Odife (2014) states that Nigeria political office holders in the first place do not have the desired political will and responsiveness to deliver social goods to its citizenry. All these affect the smooth running of the programme and its implementation.

More so, findings from table 2 show that 67.5% of the respondents agreed that political and bureaucratic corruption is a major challenge to the programme in Nigeria. This is because, in most cases, school administrators are seen bribing programme managers to pay more attention to their school than others. Again, Agbeze (2017) reported that in Ibadan, some programme administrators were seen extorting money from parents and guardians so as to capture their children in the scheme, thereby leading some school management to collect an illegal and unofficially authorized N70 levy per week from the pupils.

Data further prove that poor food hygiene with respondent's perception at 54.5% and poor programme coverage, all poses as challenge to the programme. Lawal et al. (2021) reports that most parents were reported to have instructed their children not to partake in the school feeding programme because of the poor quality of meal served to the children, while others were seen lamenting that the programme did not cover their local government areas respectively. This means that the government needs to improve on the quality of meal served to the target population and as well increase the coverage of the programme to those states that are yet to feel the programmme.

Research Question 2: What are the strategies that can be adopted to improve the national home-grown school feeding programme and other policy initiatives in Nigeria?
To answer the research question one above, data were collected from the respondents' responses on the possible challenges affecting and hindering the full implementation of the national home-grown school feeding programme in Nigeria as shown in table 3 below.

Table 3: Descriptive statistics on the strategies that can be adopted to improve the national home-grown school feeding programme and other policy initiatives in Nigeria?

S/n	Items	Yes	No	Total (n)	Percentage (%)
1	Increased budgetary provisions	175 (61.2%)	111(38.8%)	286	100
2	Proper planning/management of the food vendors	156 (54.5%)	130 (45.5%)	286	100
3	Coordinated food supply for each state	163 (56.9%)	123 (43.1%)	286	100
4	Government should subsidize and regulate food prices	191 (66.7%)	95 (33.3%)	286	100
5	Political will and commitment by the government/	183 (63.9%)	103 (36.1%)	286	100
6	Promotion of ethics and morals	189 (66.1%)	97 (33.9%)	286	100
7	Improved standard and quality of food	151 (52.7%)	135 (47.3%)	286	100
8	Expansion of programme coverage	192 (67.1%)	94 (32.9%)	286	100

Source: Field work, 2022
In analyzing the data presented in table 3 above, emphasis is based on respondents' responses on the questionnaire items to determine the percentage of each respondent's response on the questionnaire item below.

As part of strategies to overcome the challenges policy implementation in Nigeria and as well improve the success of the national home grown school feeding programmes, the study proved that increased budgetary provisions with 61.2% and proper planning/management of the food vendors with 54.5% will help overcome programme challenges in Nigeria. With 61.2% of respondents agreeing to increase funding item, it means that the government at different levels must take programme financing seriously as this is one panacea to defeating programme failure.

The study further noted in table 3 above that with a coordinated food supply to the different regions, the government will defeat policy failure. This is because 56.9% agreed to the item while 43.2% disagreed; meaning that the government must ensure it putsstrategic plans on ground as regards to food supply plan as the program continues. More so, the study proves that the government can subsidize and regulate food prices so as to protect the interest of the citizens over unregulated food suppliers. With about one hundred and eighty-three respondents representing 63.9% agreeing to the item and 36.1% disagreeing, data proves that when government subsidizes food prices, it will help Nigerians access and purchase food items at ease.

Another finding in table 3 above shows that increased political will and commitment by the government has 63.9% of respondents agreeing to it while one hundred and three respondents representing 36.1% disagreed that political will and government commitment can help improve the policy efficiency in Nigeria. Kabiru (2017) state that policy implementation in Nigeria is plagued by lack of a sincerely expressed political will and commitment on the part of the leadership, political/bureaucratic corruption, and deliberate bureaucratic poor performances. Thus, if and when the government establishes institutions to properly manage existing policy programmes like the national home-grown school

feeding programme, the programme will succeed. Also, promotion of ethics and morals has 66.1% of the respondents agreeing to the item with 33.9% disagreeing. Data proves that the Nigerian public sector can become transparent and accountable when ethics and good moral conducts are promoted amongst public workers.

The study proved that improved standard and quality of food and expansion of prgramme coverage can help government achieve the purpose of the programme which is to have an improved students' enrollment into schools and at same time reduce the index of malnourished children in Nigeria. With 52.7% respondents stating that government should improve the quality of meals given to the children and about one hundred and ninety two representing 67.1% on the other hand also stating that the government should expand the programme to cover more local governments, it means this can all help the government achieve the essence of the programmes.

VI CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The implementation of public policies for the execution of social services for the citizenry is a constitutional right of the latter. As such, any government that claims to have the mandate of the people and enjoy official legitimacy should strive to fulfill their constitutional obligation of implementation of social policies that would improve the living standard of the people. It therefore becomes apt for government at every level to try as much as possible formulate people centered policies and as well put structures in place for policy implementation and actualization. Consequently, this paper therefore makes the following recommendations:

1) The federal and states government alike should review and increase the budgets made for existing policy programmes with particular reference to the national home grown school feeding programme so as to carter for the financial needs of the programme.

2) There should be proper planning mechanism with a coordinated framework for national programmes so as to avoid programme distraction and bureaucratic corruption. There is need for the government to plan adequately before embarking on national programmes so as to avoid administrative lapses.

3) The government at all levels should have policy commitment and will so as to achieve the purpose of the national programme. Without political will and commitment, the government will pay lip service to the success of the programmes.

4) The government should expand the programme coverage of the national home-grown school feeding programme so as to cover the remaining states and local government in the federation.

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