

New Public Management as Way of Achieving Sustainable Development in Nigeria

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Abstract

The aim of this research work is to critically examine the two concepts the New Public Management and Sustainable Development in Nigeria. New Public Management demands that governmental bodies be modernized, marketize for effected and efficient service delivery. Sustainable Development demands that quality of human life, availability of resources for current and future generations be sustained. The methodology employed by the research work is questionnaire survey design to collect primary data. The research study found that there is significant relationship between new public management and sustainable development in Nigeria. Some of the recommendations of the research work include modernizing public sector, marketizing public agencies, managerialism etc for development of now and future generation must be encouraged by governments all levels.

Keywords: New Public Management, Sustainable Development

INTRODUCTION:

Nigeria as like many of African nations at independence it inherited public administration systems that performed two key functions of a modern state fairly satisfactorily, assuring the continuity of the state and maintaining law and order within each country's territorial areas. Most countries moved quickly to recruit and train nationals to replace the departing colonial officials and to assure the steady supply of trained men and women for their expanding public services.

By the late 1980s, there was widespread acknowledgment of a development crisis in in Nigeria and most Sub Saharan Africa and the decline of the Public Administration in the majority of the countries was just one of the manifestations, albeit a critical one, given its responsibility for the important state functions mentioned above (Adamolekun 2005).

In recent years many changes have taken place in the environment, technology, assumptions and dynamics of public administration. With globalization trends, the computer and communications revolution, easy movement across borders of professional and technical personnel, data, information and technology etc have had a significant impact on the practice of public administration. These trends have not only stimulated new opportunities, but also generated new problems. According to UN Department on Public Economics and Public Administration (2006) asserted that the new national and international realities, many of the earlier concepts, standards and techniques of public administration have been changed, adapted, augmented or even replaced, although many basic principles remain valid.

New Public Management as a term coined in the late 1980s to denote a new stress on the importance of management and 'production engineering' in public service delivery often linked to doctrines of economic rationalism (Hood 1989; Pollitt 1993). New Public Management'' (NPM) industry that had grown up to chronicle, interpret, and assess the wave of efforts to reform executive government across the world over the past two decades (Hood & Peters 2004).

The problem in this context of the research is that new public management as a new concept in Nigeria have not been acknowledged due to so many reasons. Some of those reasons include being affected by two seemingly contradictory forces. On the one hand, many national issues have been redefined by globalization trends: environmental concerns; human rights; managerialism, economic, trade and aid imperatives; and the need for international standards (UN 2010). While some countries have made significant progress in managing change and controlling their future, others have lagged behind. Whatever their level of progress, all Governments feel the need to make continuous improvement in public administration.

DEFINATION OF CONCEPTS:

New Public Management – seeks to apply market principles to governmental administration, with an emphasis on competition, contracting and customer orientation. It also emphasizes merit-based recruitment and promotion, increased autonomy for managers ("letting managers manage") with corresponding responsibility, performances

related pay, continuous skills development and upgrading Adamolekun (2002).

Sustainable Development – is the efforts at improving the environment or natural resources for the purpose of improving the quality of human life in such a way that the needs of the future generation are not jeopardized (Adebayo 2010). To this end, sustainable development is the ability to preserve the existing resources of the state for the collective use of the citizens while conscious efforts are made to conserve the resources for the use of future generations.

LITERATURE REVIEW:

New Public Management simply means shifts from the emphasis of traditional public administration to public management (Lane 1994) and also pushes the state toward managerialism (Clarke and Newman 1997). The traditional model of organization and delivery of public services, based on the principles of bureaucratic hierarchy, planning, centralization, direct control and self-sufficiency, is being replaced by a market-based public service management. Bouckaert & Pollitt (2000) asserted that with New Public Management there is a shift in various aspects of the recent changes in the public sector that have come to be known as public management reform in general (maintain, modernize, marketize, and minimize. In his contribution Rhodes in Ezeani (2006) posits thus: The new public management has the following central doctrines a focus on management, not policy, and on performance appraisal and efficiency; the disaggregation of Public bureaucracies into agencies which deal with each other on a user-pay basis, the use of quasi-markets and contracting out to foster competition; cost-cutting, and a style of management which emphasizes, amongst other things, output targets, limited-term contracts, monetary incentives and freedom to manage. Lastly Obi and Nwanegbo (2006) opine as that New Public Management is a label used to describe a management culture that emphasizes the centrality of the citizen or customers, as well as accountability for result.

Sustainable Development - The Diploma of sustainable development online (2012) in Mohammed (2013) refers the term as the type of economic growth pattern where the use of resources meets the needs of the human population while conserving the environment at the same time. Sustainable development means resources are used in such a way that both current and future human needs can be met. According to Guga (2014) sustainable development, it's a situation where basic operating structures and processes that would ensure the continuous development of a nation have been established and are working efficiently

CHALLENGES FACING NEW PUBLIC MANAGEMENT IN NIGERIA:

Some of the major challenges facing new public management include increasing pace of change, technological development, changing perceptions, increasing expectations, citizen's empowerment, changing workforce and changing environment (Palne 2008).

HYPOTHESIS:

There is no significant relationship between New Public Management and Sustainable Development

METHODOLOGY:

The research employed a questionnaire survey design to collected primary data. The questionnaire measured demographic characteristics of the respondents such as sex, age, educational qualification and nationality. The independent variable constructs include Modernization, market based, managerialism and Service Delivery. The dependent variable constructs include quality of human life, resources availability, development and future generation. The research study also employed four point Likert style responses ranging from 1 = “strongly disagree”, through to 2=”disagree”, 3=”agree” and 4 “strongly agree”.

ANALYSIS OF DATA, RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS:

Table 1 (Demographic characteristics of Respondents Sex)

		Sex			
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Male	33	66.0	66.0	66.0
	Female	17	34.0	34.0	100.0
	Total	50	100.0	100.0	

From the above table one (1) it has shows the sex of the respondents, in which male respondents are 33 in number representing 66% of the total responses. While the female respondents are 17 in number representing 34% of the respondents. So majority of the respondents are male respondents and middle age representing 66% of the total responses.

Table 2 (Demographic Characteristics of Respondents – Age)

		Age			
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	26 - 30	11	22.0	22.0	22.0
	31 - 35	34	68.0	68.0	90.0
	36 - 40	5	10.0	10.0	100.0
	Total	50	100.0	100.0	

The age distribution of the respondents are 26 – 30 years of age are 11 in number representing 22% of the total respondents, while 31 – 35 years of age are 34 in number representing 68% of the total respondents. The third category of respondents are those who fall within the ages of 36 – 40 years of age which are 5 in number representing 10% of the total respondents. The research study concludes that majority of the respondents fall within the age of 31 – 35 years which constitutes the majority of respondents representing 68%.

Table 3 (Demographic Characteristics of Respondents – Education)

		Education			
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Tertiary Education	50	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 3 virtually shows all the respondents have acquired tertiary education that is first degree or above first degree. The percentages of the respondents are 100% who acquire tertiary education. This symbolise that all the respondents are well educated and also elites in the society.

Table 4 (Demographic Characteristics of Respondents – Nationality)

		Nationality			
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Nigerian	50	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 4 shows that all the respondents are Nigerians which represent 100% of the total responses.

Table 5

Level of the Independent Variable in the research

		Statistics			
		Modernization	Managerialism	Market	Service Delivery
N	Valid	50	50	50	50
	Missing	0	0	0	0
Mean		3.1400	3.1200	2.9600	2.9400

Modernization and managerialism in new public management were found to be very satisfactory with a mean of 3.14 and 3.12 respectively. While market forces and service delivery are found to be satisfactory with a mean of 2.96 and 2.94 respectively. So virtually all the constructs under new public management have proved to be efficient. Respondents have fully acknowledged the role of public management in Nigeria.

Table 6

Level of the Dependent Variable in the research

		Statistics			
		Quality of Human Life	Resources	Future Generation	Development
N	Valid	50	50	50	50
	Missing	0	0	0	0
Mean		3.1200	3.0000	2.5400	2.5000

Quality of human life, availability of resources in sustainable development was found to be very satisfactory with the mean ranging from 3.12 and 3.00 respectively. While future generation and development were found to be satisfactory. So generally, the respondents proved to be satisfied with the role of sustainable of the constructs in relation to sustainable development.

Table 7
 Correlation

		Correlations	
		NPM	SD
NPM	Pearson Correlation	1	.997**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.003
	N	4	4
SD	Pearson Correlation	.997**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.003	
	N	4	4

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

The table 7 shows the relationship between the variables is very strong.

Table 8
 Regression

Model Summary									
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Change Statistics				
					R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change
1	.997 ^a	.993	.990	.03158	.993	298.333	1	2	.003

a. Predictors: (Constant), NPM

ANOVA ^b						
Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	.298	1	.298	298.333	.003 ^a
	Residual	.002	2	.001		
	Total	.300	3			

a. Predictors: (Constant), NPM

b. Dependent Variable: SD

For the interpretation of the above tables (8 and 9) the research study found the sig value (0.003) is less than (0.05); the research rejects the null hypothesis and concludes that new public management has significant relationship with sustainable development in Nigeria. Likewise, there is 99% the result shows sustainable development is 99% explained by new public management.

CONCLUSION:

In conclusion, new public management has significant relationship with sustainable development in Nigeria. This was proved by the research study in which the constructs under independent and dependent variable were proved to be very satisfactory on the average. So empirical evidence has should that new public management has impact on sustainable development in Nigeria especially with regard to modernizing public sector reforms, managerialism, market oriented and service delivery, quality of human life, availability of resources future generation and development.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Research findings/recommendations include the following:

- i. The government should continue with the efforts of modernizing public sector to meet the demand of Nigerians.
- ii. The government and nongovernmental organizations should collaborate to ensure full managerialism,
- iii. Availability of resources and quality of human life should the yard stick for sustainable development in Nigeria.
- iv. Development at all levels for future generation should be sustained. This will ensure sustainability of development throughout the country.

- v. Lastly, another research can be conducted to find more strategies on how new public management can be used to achieve sustainable development in Nigeria.

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