A Review of the 2025 Federal Government Education Budget Allocations

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Date: October 2025

Abstract

This research paper critically examines Nigeria's 2025 Federal Education Budget within the broader context of public sector financing. It explores trends in budget allocation between 2024 and 2025, analyzes sub-sector distributions, and evaluates Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) disbursement performance. Using a comparative policy analysis framework, the study highlights gaps in equity, efficiency, and gender responsiveness. The findings reveal a 49% nominal increase in education funding from 2024 to 2025 but a proportional decline in the education sector's share of the national budget. Policy recommendations emphasize the need for improved transparency, subnational engagement, and adherence to global education funding benchmarks.

Keywords: Education Budget, UBEC, Nigeria, Gender, Public Finance

Chapter 1: Introduction

Education remains the cornerstone of national development. In Nigeria, public investment in education continues to shape human capital outcomes and socio-economic advancement. The Federal Government's budgetary allocation to the education sector serves as a barometer for assessing its commitment to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 on inclusive and equitable quality education. This study evaluates the 2025 Federal Education Budget, comparing it with 2024 to understand funding trajectories, disbursement patterns, and their implications for policy and governance.

Chapter 2: Research Approach and Methodology

This study adopts a descriptive-analytical approach grounded in public finance and policy analysis frameworks. Primary data sources include the 2024 and 2025 Appropriation Acts, UBEC disbursement reports, and statements from the Federal Ministry of Education. Secondary data were drawn from media publications (The Guardian, ICIR, Vanguard) and analytical reviews (BudgIT, DRPC). Quantitative analysis focused on nominal and proportional changes in education funding, while qualitative assessment explored institutional and governance implications.

Justification

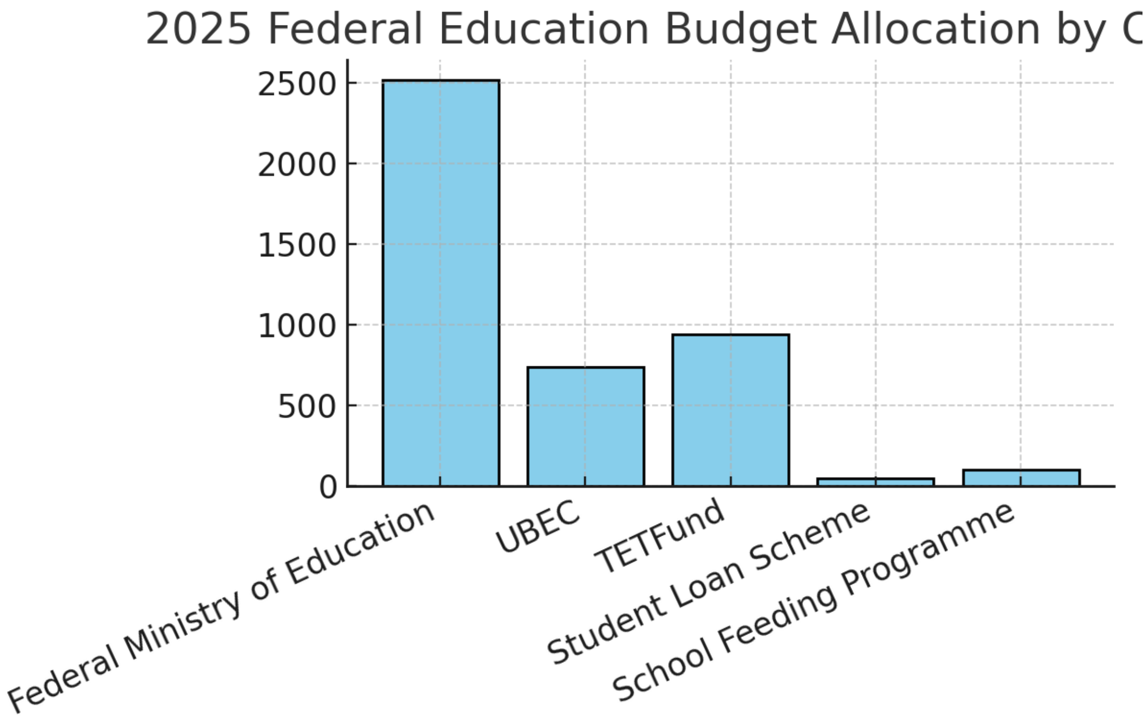
The study is justified by the need to deepen understanding of Nigeria's education financing trends, accountability in fund utilization, and compliance with international funding benchmarks. It contributes to evidence-based advocacy by civil society organizations and informs policymakers on improving resource allocation efficiency across education sub-sectors.

Chapter 3: Overview of the 2025 Federal Education Budget

The 2025 Federal Education Budget is estimated at ₦4.35 trillion, representing approximately 7% of the total national budget. The table below shows the breakdown by major institutions and programs.

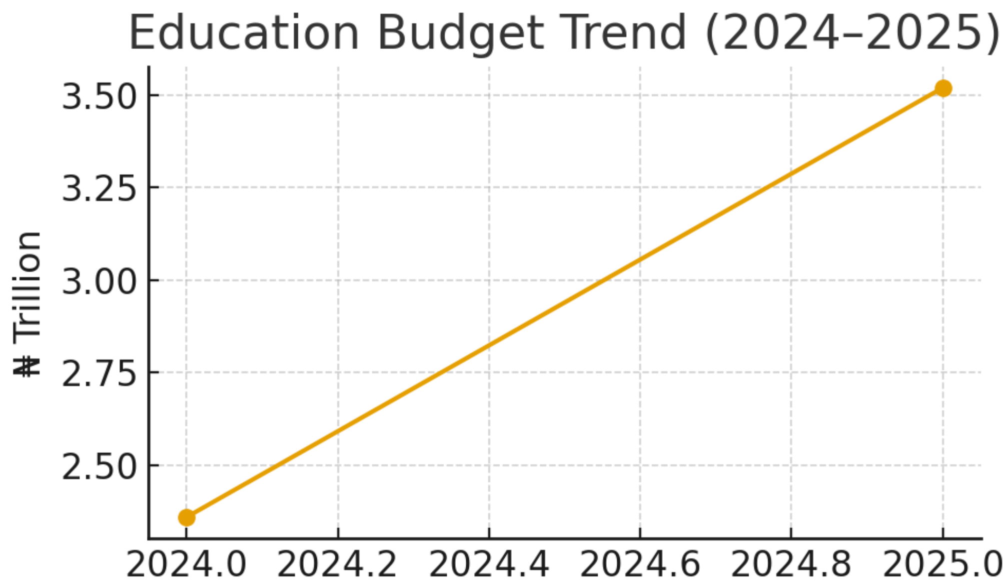
Category	Amount (₦ Billion)	% of Total
Federal Ministry of Education	2517.97	57.92%
UBEC	738.61	16.99%
TETFund	940.50	21.64%
Student Loan Scheme	50.00	1.15%

School Feeding Programme	100.00	2.30%



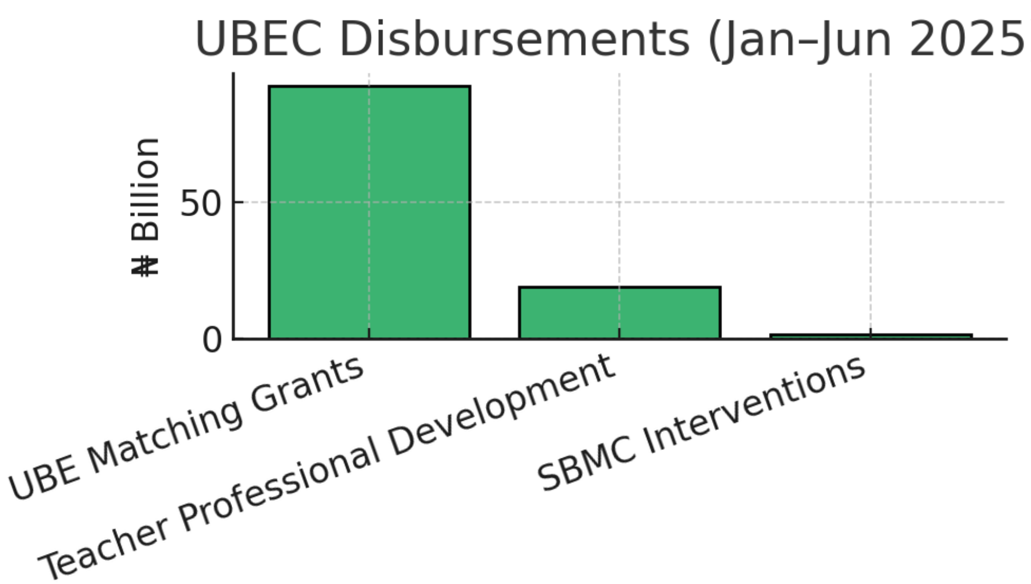
Chapter 4: Comparative Analysis (2024–2025 Trend)

Between 2024 and 2025, Nigeria's education budget rose nominally by 49%, from ₦2.36 trillion to ₦3.52 trillion. Despite this, its share of the national budget decreased from 8.21% to 7.07%, reflecting competing fiscal pressures.



Chapter 5: UBEC Disbursement Analysis (Mid-Year 2025)

The Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) disbursed ₦92.4 billion in UBE matching grants to 25 states and the FCT in 2025, while an alternative update recorded ₦78.6 billion accessed by 27 states. Additional funds included ₦19 billion for Teacher Professional Development (TPD) and ₦1.5 billion for School-Based Management Committee (SBMC) interventions.



Chapter 6: Narrative and Policy Analysis

The analysis reveals persistent structural imbalances in Nigeria's education financing architecture. The dominance of tertiary-level spending through TETFund overshadows the basic education subsector. Additionally, low absorption of UBEC funds at the state level and minimal gender-focused budgeting (0.036%) reflect systemic inefficiencies. Despite fiscal expansions, Nigeria's education spending remains below the UNESCO benchmark.

Chapter 7: Discussion and Recommendations

To improve equity and impact, the following policy actions are recommended:

1. Increase the share of the education budget to meet the UNESCO benchmark of 15–20%.
2. Strengthen gender-responsive budgeting and monitoring mechanisms.
3. Enforce subnational compliance with UBEC counterpart funding.
4. Improve transparency through open data on disbursements and utilisation.
5. Prioritize Early Childhood and Basic Education to address learning poverty.

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