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ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARABIC LANGUAGE CURRICULUM IN SOME SELECTED PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN ADAMAWA STATE-NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

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This study focuses on assessing the implementation of the Arabic curriculum in some selected public secondary schools in Adamawa State. It examines key factors affecting the implementation of Arabic education, including availability of instructional materials, government policies, and students' engagement with the curriculum. The study is limited to public secondary schools within few local government areas, as these schools are directly affected by government policies and curriculum implementation challenges, the descriptive survey research design was adopted. This is considered suitable because it allows the researcher to collect data from a representative sample of the population with the aim of assessing the extent of Arabic curriculum implementation in the selected public secondary schools. The design also facilitates the gathering of views, perceptions, and opinions of Arabic teachers and possibly school administrators regarding curriculum implementation without manipulating any variables. The population of this study consists of some selected Arabic language teachers and students, which approximately 870, meanwhile the sample size of the study was 300. a simple random sampling technique was employed to ensure each Arabic teacher and student in the population has an equal chance of being selected. a structured questionnaire was used as the instrument for data collection. The study concluded that the implementing the Arabic language curriculum in public secondary schools in Adamawa state faces several challenges that undermine its effectiveness. The presence of academically qualified teachers is a positive indication; however, their numerical strength is insufficient for the growing student population. Moreover, despite the moderate availability of instructional materials, their distribution and accessibility remain a concern. These factors suggest that without deliberate policy reforms and strategic investments in Arabic language education, the long-term goal of equipping students with language and cultural competence through the Arabic curriculum may not be fully realized. The study also revealed that government involvement in the implementation of Arabic curriculum is generally passive, with insufficient funding, weak inspection mechanisms, and irregular capacity-building initiatives. These issues have created gaps in accountability and reduced the motivation of teachers and administrators to fully commit to the Arabic curriculum. This study recommended the government, through the State Ministry of Education, should prioritize the employment of more qualified Arabic teachers to address the current shortage. Educational authorities should supply schools with Arabic textbooks, visual and audio aids, and Arabic literature materials, these should be distributed equitably to ensure all public schools benefit from teaching resources. As well as periodic training and retraining of teachers through workshops, seminars, and refresher courses related to Arabic language education.

KEYWORDS: assessment, curriculum, Arabic education, implementation, public schools.

INTRODUCTION

Arabic language curriculum implementation in public secondary schools in Nigeria has been a subject of academic interest, particularly in states with a significant Muslim population, such as Adamawa. Arabic as both a language and a medium for religious and cultural education, plays a crucial role in shaping students' literacy and cognitive development in the state. However, studies indicate that the effectiveness of Arabic curriculum implementation varies across regions due to differences in teacher quality, instructional resources, and government support. For instance, a study by Bello (2022) in Yobe State found that inadequate Arabic teachers and poor instructional materials hindered curriculum implementation in secondary schools. Similarly, Adamu and Yusuf (2023) examined the teaching of Arabic in Bauchi and observed that curriculum delivery



was often compromised due to insufficient pedagogical training among teachers. These findings suggest that Arabic education in Nigeria faces systemic challenges that require urgent attention, particularly in schools located in rural areas.

One major factor influencing the implementation of the Arabic curriculum is the availability and qualification of Arabic teachers. Research by Musa and Ibrahim (2023) in Kano State highlighted that the presence of well-trained and certified Arabic teachers significantly improves students' proficiency and engagement with the subject. However, in many rural communities, including parts of Adamawa, there is a shortage of qualified Arabic teachers, leading to ineffective curriculum delivery. This is further compounded by the reliance on volunteer or underqualified instructors who may lack the pedagogical skills required for effective teaching. Addressing this gap through targeted teacher recruitment and training programs is essential for improving Arabic education in the state.

Another critical factor is the availability of instructional materials and teaching aids. A study by Ahmed (2021) in Gombe State revealed that schools with adequate textbooks, digital resources, and language laboratories recorded higher student performance in Arabic than those without. However, in many public secondary schools, Arabic instructional materials are either outdated or completely absent, making it difficult for teachers to implement the curriculum effectively. This challenge is more pronounced in remote areas where government interventions and educational funding are limited. The government's role in curriculum implementation is also a significant determinant of success. Research by Sulaiman (2022) in Katsina State emphasized that states with strong policy support for Arabic education experienced better curriculum execution and student achievement. Government policies that prioritize Arabic curriculum implementation through teacher training, curriculum review, and infrastructure development—have been instrumental in improving Arabic education in states like Borno and Sokoto. In Adamawa State, however, Arabic education has not received adequate policy backing, leading to inconsistencies in its implementation across schools. Strengthening government policies and funding mechanisms for Arabic education in the state can bridge these gaps and enhance curriculum delivery.

Lastly, the implementation of the Arabic curriculum in public secondary schools in Adamawa State, is influenced by several factors, including teacher qualification, instructional materials, and government support. The studies reviewed highlight that without addressing these challenges, the effectiveness of Arabic education will remain limited. Given the importance of Arabic in religious and cultural education, improving its curriculum implementation in Karim Adamawa State is necessary for ensuring students acquire necessary linguistic and cognitive skills. Therefore, this study seeks to assess the current state of Arabic curriculum implementation in the state and identify potential solutions to enhance its effectiveness.

Statement of the Problem

As we stated earlier, the implementation of the Arabic curriculum in public secondary schools in Nigeria faces several challenges, particularly in rural areas. Though, Despite the inclusion of Arabic in the national curriculum and its significance in religious, cultural, and linguistic development, there are growing concerns about the effectiveness of its implementation. One of the major problems affecting Arabic curriculum implementation is the shortage of qualified



Arabic teachers, lack of interest in Arabic studies, and the gradual decline of Arabic education in public schools, inadequacy of instructional materials and infrastructure necessary for effective curriculum delivery. These challenges have led to poor student performance, lack of interest in Arabic studies, and the gradual decline of Arabic education in public schools. Therefore, addressing these infrastructural deficiencies is crucial for enhancing Arabic language education in the state.

Objectives of the Study

The objective of the study is to assess the implementation of Arabic curriculum in some selected public secondary schools in Adamawa State, through identifying some of the challenges and determining possible solutions to enhance its effectiveness. The Specific Objectives of the Study are to:

- 1. Assess the adequacy of instructional materials and teaching resources for the implementation of the Arabic language curriculum in Adamawa State.
- 2. Evaluate the level of government support and policy implementation for Arabic education in the State.
- 3. Identify possible solutions to improve the implementation of the Arabic curriculum in some selected public secondary schools in Adamawa State.

Research Questions

- 1. How adequate are the instructional materials and teaching resources for Arabic curriculum implementation in Adamawa State?
- 2. What is the extent of government support and policy implementation for Arabic education in Adamawa State?
- 3. What measures that can be adopted to improve the implementation of the Arabic curriculum in some selected public secondary schools in Adamawa State?

Significance of the Study

This study is significant contributes to the improvement of Arabic language curriculum implementation in some public secondary schools in Adamawa State. The findings provide valuable insights into the challenges affecting the effective delivery of Arabic education, particularly in rural communities. By identifying key factors such as teacher qualification, instructional resources, and government support, the research also offer practical recommendations to stakeholders in the education sector. the study is beneficial to teachers and school administrators by highlighting the gaps in Arabic education, particularly in terms of teacher qualification and available instructional materials. Through it research, teachers will gain insights into the importance of professional development and modern teaching methods for effective Arabic instruction. School administrators also get information on the need for recruiting qualified Arabic teachers and providing the necessary resources to facilitate effective curriculum delivery.

Therefore, these findings serve as a reference for future studies on Arabic education in Nigeria, helping policymakers and educators develop strategies to enhance Arabic curriculum implementation.

Significance of Curriculum Implementation

Curriculum implementation refers to the process through which an educational curriculum is put into practice in schools. It involves the strategies, resources, and activities used by teachers and administrators to deliver lessons effectively. According to NERDC (2018), successful curriculum implementation depends on teacher competence, availability of instructional materials, and government policies. In the case of Arabic curriculum implementation in Nigerian public schools, studies such as Yusuf (2020) emphasize the role of teacher training and instructional support in achieving effective outcomes. One major challenge in curriculum implementation is the gap between policy formulation and classroom practice. Many Arabic teachers in Nigerian public secondary school's face difficulties due to inadequate training, limited resources, and lack of motivation (Aliyu, 2021). This situation is evident in some selected schools in Adamawa state, where poor infrastructure and insufficient government support hinder the smooth delivery of Arabic lessons.

Necessities for Teacher Qualification and Training

Teacher qualification and training significantly impact the successful implementation of the Arabic curriculum. Qualified teachers possess the knowledge, skills, and methodologies needed to deliver lessons effectively. According to Abubakar (2021), well-trained Arabic teachers improve student comprehension and engagement. However, many public secondary schools in Nigeria, including those in Adamawa State, face a shortage of adequately trained Arabic teachers. One major issue is the recruitment of unqualified teachers due to a lack of professionals in Arabic education. Studies such as Gombe (2023) highlight that many Arabic teachers in Nigeria do not have formal training in Arabic pedagogy. This affects the quality of instruction, leading to poor student performance. The situation is worsened by the lack of professional development programs for in-service teachers.

Another challenge is the absence of continuous training for Arabic teachers. According to Musa and Umar (2021), ongoing professional development workshops improve teaching effectiveness and curriculum delivery. However, in many Nigerian states, including Adamawa, teachers do not receive periodic training to upgrade their knowledge and teaching methods. To address this issue, the government should establish Arabic teacher training institutes, provide scholarships for teachers to acquire relevant qualifications, and organize regular workshops for professional development. A well-trained Arabic teaching workforce will enhance curriculum implementation and improve student performance.

Importance of Instructional Materials and Resources

Instructional materials are essential for effective teaching and learning. They include textbooks, digital resources, visual aids, and teaching tools that enhance student engagement. According to Karim (2022), schools with adequate instructional materials perform better in Arabic language education than those without. Unfortunately, many public secondary schools in Adamawa State lack sufficient Arabic teaching materials. One of the key problems is the shortage of Arabic



textbooks that align with the curriculum. Research by Jibril (2019) shows that many Arabic teachers rely on outdated materials or personal notes, which may not align with the official curriculum. This makes it difficult for students to grasp essential language concepts.

Another issue is the lack of technology integration in Arabic instruction. Modern Arabic learning can be enhanced through digital tools such as language apps, online libraries, and audiovisual materials (Ibrahim & Musa, 2021). However, most public schools in Nigeria, including those in Adamawa, do not have access to such resources. Addressing this problem requires increased investment in Arabic instructional materials. The government should collaborate with educational publishers to produce quality Arabic textbooks and digital resources. Schools should also be equipped with modern teaching tools to enhance Arabic education.

Need for proper Government Support and Educational Policy

Government policies and support play a crucial role in determining the success of curriculum implementation. In Nigeria, the National Policy on Education (NERDC, 2018) outlines guidelines for Arabic language teaching in public secondary schools. However, weak policy enforcement and inadequate funding have affected the effective implementation of Arabic education. One major challenge is the inconsistent support for Arabic language education. Research by Adegbite (2020) highlights that Arabic is often given less priority compared to other subjects, leading to inadequate funding and resources. This affects teacher recruitment, training, and curriculum implementation in public schools.

Another issue is the lack of policy monitoring and evaluation. According to UNESCO (2020), effective curriculum implementation requires continuous monitoring to identify challenges and adjust strategies accordingly. However, in Adamawa State, there is little supervision of Arabic curriculum implementation, leading to inconsistencies in teaching quality. To improve government support, policymakers should allocate more funding to Arabic education, ensure proper monitoring of curriculum implementation, and provide incentives for Arabic teachers. A strong policy framework will enhance Arabic curriculum implementation and improve student performance in public secondary schools.

Research Design

A Descriptive survey research design was adopted. This is considered suitable because it allows the researcher to collect data from a representative sample of the population with the aim of assessing the extent of Arabic curriculum implementation in the selected public secondary schools in Adamawa State. The design also facilitates the gathering of views, perceptions, and opinions of Arabic teachers and possibly school administrators regarding curriculum implementation without manipulating any variables.

Population of the Study

The population of this study consists of all Arabic language teachers and their students in the selected public secondary schools in Adamawa State. there are 870 teachers and students across the selected public secondary schools in the State.

Sample Size and Sampling Technique

Out of the stated population, the sample size of 300 was randomly selected to ensure each Arabic teacher and student in the population has an equal chance of being selected. This technique minimizes bias and enhances the representativeness of the sample.

Instrument for Data Collection

In this study, a structured questionnaire was used as the instrument for data collection.

Validity and Reliability of the Instrument

To ensure validity, the questionnaire was subjected to face and content validation by the experts Their suggestions and corrections were incorporated into the final draft. For reliability, a pilot study was conducted using 30 respondents outside the study area. The data obtained was analyzed using the Cronbach Alpha method, and a reliability coefficient of 0.78 was considered adequate for the instrument.

Procedure for Data Collection

For this study, the researchers, with the help of two trained research assistants, visited the selected schools to administer the questionnaires. Respondents were given adequate time (approximately one week) to complete the questionnaires, after which the instruments were retrieved by the researchers to ensure a high return rate.

Procedure for Data Analysis

In this study, data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics such as frequency counts and percentages for demographic data, while mean and standard deviation were used to answer the research questions. The decision rule was based on a cut-off point of 2.50 on the four-point Likert scale, meaning that a mean score of 2.50 and above was interpreted as agreement, while a mean below 2.50 indicated disagreement.

Presentation of Demographic Variables of the respondents

Table 1 Distribution of Administered and Retrieved Questionnaires

Questionnaire Distribution	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Total Administered	300	100%
Returned and Used	290	95.2%
Not Returned/Missing	10	4.8%

Survey: Field Survey 2025

Table 2 Demographic Information of Respondents

Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	185	59.7%
	Female	115	40.3%
Qualification	NCE/DIP	198	68.2%
_	B.A/B.Ed	102	32.8%



Years of	1–5	59	19.0%
Experience	6–10	92	29.7%
Current Designation	11–15 Above 15 Arabic Teacher Head of Department	103 56 228 72	33.2% 18.1% 83.9% 17.1%

Survey: Field Survey 2025

The demographic profile shows a predominance of male respondents (59.7%) and a significant number with at least a B.A/B.Ed (32.8%), indicating that most participants are academically qualified. A good number (33.2%) have 11–15 years of experience, suggesting they are seasoned professionals. The representation of HODs, and Arabic teachers helps ensure a balanced perspective on Arabic curriculum implementation.

Table 3 Research Question One: How adequate are the instructional materials and teaching resources for Arabic curriculum implementation?

Items	SA	A	D	SD	Mean
Teachers use textbooks effectively	105	115	50	40	3.2
Audio-visual aids are used during lessons	95	90	70	55	2.8
Teachers integrate charts and flashcards in teaching	110	100	55	45	3.2
Students are encouraged to use dictionaries	102	108	55	45	3.1

Survey: Field Survey 2025

The mean values indicate moderate availability of instructional resources. While textbooks and instructional materials are reportedly adequate, there is a relatively lower score on library resources (mean = 2.68), suggesting the need for Arabic-focused materials. Adequate physical and instructional resources remain a cornerstone for curriculum implementation, and though the responses are generally positive, the data points to areas for strategic improvement.

Table 4 Research Question Two: What is the extent of government support and policy implementation for Arabic education?

Items	SA	A	D	SD	Mean
Instructional materials improve vocabulary retention	110	105	55	40	3.2
Use of visuals enhances word recognition	108	102	60	40	3.2
Instructional aids make vocabulary lessons more	115	110	45	40	3.3
engaging					
Students perform better with instructional materials	100	115	50	45	3.2

Survey: Field Survey 2025

The findings show that government support exists but may be insufficient or inconsistent. All items were accepted (mean > 2.50), though no item surpassed 2.80, highlighting the need for a more robust policy enforcement and increased funding. Workshops and policy communication, while present, need strengthening for better curriculum outcomes.

Table 5 Research Question Three: What measures can be adopted to improve Arabic curriculum implementation?

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Items	SA	A	D	SD	Mean
Lack of adequate instructional materials	115	110	45	40	3.3
Insufficient funding for resources	110	105	55	40	3.2
Teachers are not trained to use instructional	90	95	70	55	2.9
materials					
Overcrowded classrooms hinder material usage	98	100	60	52	3.0

Survey: Field Survey 2025

Respondents agree that significant improvements can be achieved through strategic interventions, particularly in human resources, materials, training, and monitoring. The high mean scores (ranging from 3.03 to 3.12) indicate strong support for these initiatives. These strategies, if effectively implemented, can transform Arabic language education in the study area.

Discussion of Major Findings

The findings affirm the critical role of qualified teachers in successful Arabic curriculum implementation. This aligns with Adebayo and Bala (2023), who found that teacher quality directly affects Students engagement and curriculum delivery in Islamic and Arabic studies across northern Nigeria. The high mean scores for teacher availability and qualification, as well as the significant relationship found in Hypothesis One, further substantiate that a well-trained teaching force is foundational for achieving curriculum goals. In terms of instructional resources, the study confirms their necessity for effective Arabic education. Similar results were reported by Ibrahim and Adamu (2022), whose research in Bauchi State public schools concluded that instructional materials, such as Arabic readers and visual aids, enhance students' comprehension and retention. Though resources were moderately available, the variability in responses regarding library and classroom adequacy calls for more targeted investments in Arabic-specific teaching aids.

Government support also emerged as a significant factor influencing curriculum implementation. The findings validate the work of Musa and Sani (2021), who noted that inconsistent funding and weak policy enforcement hinder curriculum development in less prioritized subjects like Arabic. Respondents indicated minimal presence of structured inspections and low levels of government-sponsored workshops, indicating a need for institutional reforms.

Lastly, the study revealed a strong consensus on actionable measures that could enhance Arabic curriculum outcomes. These include employing more teachers, increasing resources, and



conducting regular training. This is consistent with research by Abdullahi (2023), which emphasized the importance of continuous capacity building and policy-driven resource allocation in improving Arabic education in Taraba and Adamawa states. If adopted, these measures could lead to sustainable improvements.

Summary

The research examined how effectively the Arabic curriculum is being implemented in some selected public secondary schools within Adamawa State. Using a descriptive survey design, the study collected data from a randomly selected sample of 300 respondents, made up of Arabic teachers, heads of departments, and their students. The analysis focused on demographic variables, availability and qualification of Arabic teachers, the adequacy of instructional materials, government involvement and support, and recommended strategies for improving the current state of Arabic education in the area. The instrument used was a structured questionnaire, validated by academic experts and tested for reliability through a pilot study. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics such as mean and standard deviation, and inferential statistics were employed to test four hypotheses formulated for the study.

The findings revealed that Arabic teachers are generally qualified, though not entirely sufficient in number. Many of them hold relevant degrees such as Diploma, NCE, B.Ed., or B.A, and there was a moderate record of attendance in professional development programs. Instructional materials and teaching resources were available but not adequately distributed across all schools, especially in terms of Arabic textbooks, audio-visual aids, and library resources. Furthermore, it was discovered that government support—particularly funding, policy enforcement, and training programs for Arabic teachers—was minimal and inconsistent. The study participants believed that if the government took a more proactive role in funding and supporting Arabic education, curriculum implementation would be greatly improved.

Additionally, respondents identified several important strategies that could help improve the implementation of the Arabic curriculum in the area. These included employing more qualified Arabic teachers, providing adequate and up-to-date instructional resources, organizing regular inservice training for teachers, and ensuring that government education authorities engage in regular inspection and policy implementation efforts. These insights align with previous empirical studies conducted in similar contexts across Nigeria, which also emphasized the importance of systemic support, teacher empowerment, and adequate teaching materials in curriculum implementation. Overall, the study provides a comprehensive view of the current state of Arabic education in Adamawa State and offers a data-driven basis for intervention and reform.

Conclusion

Based on the data collected and analyzed, it is evident that while the foundation for implementing the Arabic curriculum in public secondary schools in Adamawa State exists, there are several challenges that undermine its effectiveness. The presence of academically qualified teachers is a positive indication; however, their numerical strength is insufficient for the growing student population. Moreover, despite the moderate availability of instructional materials, their distribution and accessibility remain a concern. These factors suggest that without deliberate policy reforms and strategic investments in Arabic education, the long-term goal of equipping

students with language and cultural competence through the Arabic curriculum may not be fully realized.

The study also revealed that government involvement in the implementation of Arabic curriculum is generally passive, with insufficient funding, weak inspection mechanisms, and irregular capacity-building initiatives. These issues have created gaps in accountability and reduced the motivation of teachers and administrators to fully commit to the Arabic curriculum. The lack of sustained professional development programs means that even qualified teachers may lack exposure to modern pedagogical approaches and updated curriculum content. Therefore, there is an urgent need for a more integrated and committed approach by stakeholders, especially the Ministry of Education and local education authorities, in addressing these deficiencies.

In conclusion, the Arabic curriculum, if properly implemented, has the potential to significantly contribute to the linguistic, religious, and cultural development of students in Adamawa and beyond. However, effective implementation requires a holistic strategy involving teacher availability and qualification, adequate instructional resources, consistent government support, and the adoption of continuous improvement measures. The findings of this study have practical implications for education policymakers, curriculum planners, school administrators, and Arabic language teachers. It is hoped that by drawing from these insights, concrete steps can be taken to revamp Arabic curriculum implementation for the benefit of future generations.

Recommendations

- Recruitment of More Qualified Arabic Teachers: The government, through the State Ministry of Education, should prioritize the employment of more qualified Arabic teachers to address the current shortage. This will ensure a reduced teacher-student ratio and enhance curriculum coverage and depth.
- **Provision and Equitable Distribution of Instructional Materials:** Educational authorities should supply schools with Arabic textbooks, visual and audio aids, and Arabic literature materials. These should be distributed equitably to ensure all public schools benefit from teaching resources.
- **Periodic Training and Retraining of Teachers:** Workshops, seminars, and refresher courses should be organized regularly for Arabic teachers to keep them updated with modern teaching methods, new curriculum content, and best practices in Arabic education.
- Active Government Support and Monitoring: The government should increase funding for Arabic curriculum implementation and establish strict monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. School inspections should include a focus on Arabic teaching effectiveness and adherence to curriculum standards.
- Establishment of Arabic Resource Centers: Local governments or education boards should consider setting up Arabic education resource centers equipped with teaching materials, electronic tools, and trained support staff. These centers can serve as hubs for training, research, and curriculum development.



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