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Educational Reforms and Financial Management: Political Motivation and Implementation Strategies

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Abstract

Educational reforms, often driven by political motivations, have a significant impact on financial management within educational institutions. Policymakers implement reforms to address inequalities, improve quality, and align education with evolving economic demands. However, the underlying political motivations can influence both the direction and execution of these reforms, often prioritizing ideological goals over empirical evidence. This paper explores the complex intersection of political motivations and financial management in educational reform, analyzing how these factors shape implementation strategies. Key political drivers include the desire for economic growth, workforce alignment, social equity, and, in some cases, partisan agendas. Financial management becomes central as it determines the allocation of resources, accountability standards, and fiscal sustainability of new

policies. Effective implementation strategies require balancing political goals with practical financial constraints, involving budget reallocations, incentivizing stakeholder buy-in, and addressing long-term funding requirements. Successful reforms typically depend on transparent, outcome-focused financial planning and collaborative governance models that engage educational leaders, policymakers, and community stakeholders. Furthermore, the paper highlights case studies where reforms failed due to insufficient financial foresight or an overly politicized agenda, underscoring the need for alignment between political ambition and financial feasibility. By examining the role of political motivation and effective financial strategies in educational reform, this study aims to provide insights into designing policies that are financially sustainable, socially inclusive, and educationally impactful.

Keywords: Educational Reforms, Financial Management, Political Motivation, Implementation Strategies, Education Initiative

Introduction

Education reforms and financial management play crucial roles in improving the education system. Education reforms aim to address the shortcomings and challenges within the system, such as outdated curriculum, inadequate resources, and ineffective teaching methods^[1]. By implementing reforms, we can enhance the quality of education, promote inclusivity, and prepare students for the demands of the modern world. Financial management is equally important as it ensures that the education system has the necessary funding to support these reforms. Proper financial management involves budgeting, allocating resources efficiently, and monitoring expenses. It helps ensure that funds are utilized effectively to provide quality education, adequate infrastructure, and necessary educational materials [Fig 1]. By combining

education reforms with effective financial management, we can create a more equitable and accessible education system. This enables students to receive a high-quality education regardless of their background, promotes lifelong learning, and contributes to the overall development of individuals and society [2].



Fig 1: Strategic Financial Management – Definition, Fundamentals and Process

Education reforms are changes made to the education system to improve its effectiveness and address existing challenges. These reforms are often driven by political motivation, which can vary based on the priorities and ideologies of policymakers. For example, a politician may focus on increasing access to education, improving curriculum quality, or reducing educational disparities [3]. Financial management is crucial for supporting education reforms. It involves budgeting, allocating resources, and monitoring expenses. Politicians play a significant role in making financial decisions related to education, ensuring that adequate funding is allocated to support reform initiatives [Fig 2] [4].



Fig 2: Comprehensive Municipal Financial Reform Vision

When it comes to implementing education reforms, strategies can vary. It often involves collaboration between policymakers, educators, and stakeholders. Strategies may include revising curriculum standards, providing professional development for teachers, investing in educational technology, or promoting inclusive practices. Also According to a report by the Organisation for Economic.

In terms of implementation strategies for financial management, transparency and accountability are key. This includes establishing clear budgeting processes, monitoring expenditure, and ensuring that funds are used efficiently and

effectively. Overall, political motivation drives the implementation of education reforms and financial management strategies. By aligning political priorities with the needs of the education system, policymakers can work towards improving educational outcomes and providing equal opportunities for all students. In conclusion, political motivation influences education reforms, while collaboration and transparent financial management are key implementation strategies.

Roles political motivation plays in shaping educational policies and financial decisions

Political motivation plays a crucial role in shaping educational policies and financial decisions. When it comes to education, politicians are often driven by their vision for the future and their desire to address societal needs. They use their political power to advocate for policies that align with their ideologies and priorities [5].

Education policies are influenced by political agendas, which can vary based on factors such as party platforms, public opinion, and the needs of different stakeholders. Politicians may focus on issues like increasing access to education, improving the quality of teaching, or addressing specific challenges within the education system [6]. Financial decisions related to education are also influenced by political motivations. Politicians allocate budgets and determine funding priorities based on their political goals and the needs of their constituents. They may prioritize investing in infrastructure, technology, or teacher training, depending on their vision for the education system. It's important to note that political motivation can have both positive and negative impacts on education. On one hand, it can drive positive change and innovation. On the other hand, it can lead to partisan disagreements, policy instability, or the neglect of certain educational needs. Overall, political motivation shapes educational policies and financial decisions by reflecting the values, priorities, and aspirations of those in power. It's crucial for policymakers to strike a balance between political motivations and evidence-based decision-making to ensure the best outcomes for students and the education system as a whole [7].

1. Political motivation in education reforms

Political motivation plays a crucial role in shaping education reforms. It involves the goals and visions of politicians regarding the education system. Their motivations can vary, such as improving access to education, promoting specific subjects, or addressing social inequalities. These motivations drive the development of policies, curriculum changes, and resource allocation. It's important to consider the diverse perspectives and interests involved to ensure that education reforms meet the needs of all stakeholders [8].

When it comes to driving educational reforms, there are several political factors at play. These factors, shape the political landscape and drive the formulation and implementation of educational reforms. Some of these factors include:

1. **Ideology:** Political parties and leaders often have different ideologies and beliefs about the purpose and direction of education. These ideologies shape their priorities and influence the types of reforms they advocate for.
2. **Public Opinion:** Politicians are responsive to public sentiment and may introduce educational reforms to

- address concerns or demands from the public. Public opinion can influence policy decisions and shape the direction of education reforms.
3. **Global Trends:** Political leaders may look to global trends and best practices in education to inform their reform efforts. They may seek to align their education system with international standards or to address emerging challenges in a globalized world.
 4. **Economic Considerations:** The economic landscape and workforce demands can also drive educational reforms. Politicians may prioritize reforms that aim to improve job prospects, enhance competitiveness, or address skills gaps in the labor market.
 5. **Political Competition:** Educational reforms can also be driven by political competition, with politicians seeking to differentiate themselves and gain support by proposing innovative or impactful reforms.

Political motivation also play a significant role in shaping the prioritization of reforms and their implementation strategies. Politicians may prioritize certain reforms over others based on a variety of factors, including:

Public Opinion: Politicians are often driven by the desire to gain public support and maintain their popularity. They may prioritize reforms that align with the concerns and demands of the public, as addressing these issues can help them secure votes and maintain their political standing.

Political Ideology: Different political parties and leaders have their own ideologies and policy preferences. These ideologies can influence the prioritization of reforms, with politicians focusing on initiatives that align with their party's core values and beliefs.

Special Interests: Political motivation can also be influenced by the interests of specific groups or stakeholders. Politicians may prioritize reforms that benefit influential interest groups or align with the agendas of powerful individuals or organizations.

Electoral Considerations: Reforms that are likely to have a visible and immediate impact on people's lives may be prioritized by politicians, especially during election periods. They may choose to implement reforms that can be easily communicated to the public and are likely to generate positive outcomes in the short term.

Legacy and Political Capital: Politicians may prioritize reforms that they believe will leave a lasting impact and contribute to their political legacy. They may also prioritize reforms that can help them build political capital and enhance their reputation among their constituents.

The implementation strategies of reforms can also be influenced by political motivation. Politicians may choose to implement reforms gradually, in stages, or in a more comprehensive manner depending on factors such as political feasibility, public reception, and potential backlash. It's important to note that political motivation can vary widely among different contexts and individuals, and the specific factors influencing prioritization and implementation strategies can differ accordingly.

2. Financial management in education reforms

Financial management plays a crucial role in supporting education reforms by ensuring that educational institutions have the necessary resources to implement these reforms effectively. This includes managing budgets, allocating

funds efficiently, and monitoring financial performance to ensure that resources are being used optimally.

One of the key ways in which financial management supports education reforms is by helping to identify areas where resources can be reallocated or improved. For example, if a school is implementing a new curriculum, financial management can help determine how much money needs to be spent on materials, teacher training, and other resources to support this change. By carefully managing resources, educational institutions can ensure that they are using their funds in the most effective way possible to achieve their goals. Financial management also helps to ensure that educational institutions are financially sustainable in the long term. This is particularly important for schools and other educational institutions that may face budget constraints or other financial challenges. By carefully managing their finances, educational institutions can build up reserves, reduce debt, and ensure that they have the resources they need to continue to provide high-quality education to their students. In addition to supporting education reforms, financial management also plays a vital role in supporting the overall health and success of educational institutions. By carefully managing their finances, educational institutions can ensure that they are able to attract and retain talented teachers, invest in new technologies and facilities, and provide students with the resources they need to succeed academically and personally. The allocation of resources, budgeting, and financial decision-making processes in educational institutions are critical components of ensuring that these institutions are able to provide high-quality education to their students. Here are some of the key ways in which these processes contribute to the success of educational institutions:

Allocation of resources: By carefully allocating resources, educational institutions can ensure that they have the necessary funds to support education reforms and improve student outcomes. This can include allocating resources to areas such as teacher training, curriculum development, and infrastructure improvements.

Budgeting: By developing and managing budgets effectively, educational institutions can ensure that they are using their resources efficiently and responsibly. This can help to prevent overspending or other forms of financial mismanagement, and can help to ensure that resources are being used to support education reforms and improve student outcomes.

Financial decision-making: By making informed and responsible financial decisions, educational institutions can ensure that they are using their resources in the most cost-effective way possible. This can help to reduce costs and improve the overall financial health of the institution, which can in turn help to support education reforms and improve student outcomes.

The importance of financial transparency, accountability and efficiency in achieving education goals

Financial transparency, accountability, and efficiency are essential components of achieving education goals, as they help to ensure that educational institutions are using their resources effectively and responsibly. Here are some of the key ways in which these factors contribute to the success of education reforms:

Financial transparency: By being transparent about their financial management practices, educational institutions can

demonstrate their commitment to accountability and openness. This can help to build trust among stakeholders, including parents, teachers, and students, and can help to ensure that the institution is operating in a fair and ethical manner.

Financial accountability: By being accountable for their financial management practices, educational institutions can ensure that they are using their resources responsibly and in line with their stated goals and objectives. This can help to prevent misuse or mismanagement of funds, and can help to ensure that the institution is able to continue to provide high-quality education to its students.

Financial efficiency: By being efficient in their financial management practices, educational institutions can ensure that they are using their resources in the most cost-effective way possible. This can help to reduce costs and improve the overall financial health of the institution, which can in turn help to support education reforms and improve student outcomes.

In conclusion, financial transparency, accountability, and efficiency are essential components of achieving education goals. By being transparent, accountable, and efficient in their financial management practices, educational institutions can help to ensure that they are using their resources effectively and responsibly, and can support the implementation of education reforms that will help to improve student outcomes and drive long-term success.

3. Different Implementation strategies employed in educational reforms and the challenges and opportunities associated with these strategies

There are several different implementation strategies that can be employed in educational reforms, depending on the specific goals and objectives of the reform effort. Here are some of the key strategies and the challenges and opportunities associated with each:

1. **Professional development:** One common strategy in educational reforms is to provide professional development opportunities to teachers and other educators. This can help to ensure that educators have the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively implement new reforms and improve student outcomes. However, there are also challenges associated with professional development, such as the need to provide ongoing and sustained support to educators, and the need to leverage technology and other innovative approaches to deliver professional development in a more flexible and accessible manner.
2. **Curriculum redesign:** Another strategy in educational reforms is to redesign the curriculum to better align with the goals and objectives of the reform effort. This can help to ensure that students are receiving a more relevant and effective education that prepares them for success in college and the workforce. However, there are also challenges associated with curriculum redesign, such as the need to ensure that the new curriculum is aligned with the goals and objectives of the reform effort, and the need to leverage data and other evidence-based practices to inform the redesign process and ensure that the new curriculum is effective and relevant.
3. **Infrastructure improvements:** Educational reforms may also involve making infrastructure improvements, such as building new schools or upgrading existing

facilities. This can help to ensure that educational institutions have the necessary resources and infrastructure to support the implementation of new reforms and improve student outcomes. However, there are also challenges associated with infrastructure improvements, such as the need to secure sufficient funding and resources to support the construction of new schools or the upgrading of existing facilities, and the need to leverage public-private partnerships and other innovative approaches to secure the necessary funding and resources.

4. **Parent and community engagement:** Engaging parents and the community in the reform process can also be an important strategy. This can help to ensure that there is broad support for the reforms and that stakeholders have a voice in the decision-making process. However, there are also challenges associated with parent and community engagement, such as the need to ensure that there is broad and diverse participation in the reform process, and the need to leverage technology and other innovative approaches to engage parents and the community in a more accessible and inclusive manner.
5. **Monitoring and evaluation:** Finally, it is important to establish robust monitoring and evaluation systems to track the progress of the reform effort and make data-driven decisions to improve outcomes. This can help to ensure that the reforms are effective and that they are making a positive impact on student outcomes. However, there are also challenges associated with monitoring and evaluation, such as the need to establish robust and reliable systems for tracking the progress of the reform effort, and the need to leverage technology and other innovative approaches to streamline the monitoring and evaluation process and make it more efficient and effective.

There are several examples of successful implementation strategies for real-world educational reforms initiatives. A few examples:

- a. The New Teacher Project in New York City has provided professional development and mentoring support to new teachers, resulting in improved teacher retention and student outcomes.
- b. The Next Generation Science Standards have provided a framework for curriculum redesign in science education, resulting in improved student learning outcomes and readiness for college and careers.
- c. The construction of new schools in underserved communities in Chicago has helped to improve access to high-quality education and reduce educational inequities.
- d. The Parent-Teacher Home Visit Program in Denver has provided opportunities for parents and teachers to work together to support student learning, resulting in improved student outcomes and increased parent engagement.
- e. **Finland's Education System:** Finland has been recognized for its successful education system. They have implemented reforms that focus on equitable access, teacher professionalism, and student well-being. By prioritizing high-quality teacher training, individualized learning, and a holistic approach to education, Finland has achieved exceptional academic

outcomes and high levels of student satisfaction.

- f. **Singapore's "Teach Less, Learn More" Approach:** Singapore's education system emphasizes quality over quantity. They have implemented reforms that promote active learning, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. By reducing the emphasis on rote memorization and encouraging student-centered teaching methods, Singapore has achieved top rankings in international assessments like the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA).
- g. **Ontario's Full-Day Kindergarten Program:** Ontario, Canada, implemented a full-day kindergarten program to provide a strong foundation for children's learning. This reform initiative aimed to improve early childhood education by integrating play-based learning, social-emotional development, and academic skills. The program has shown positive outcomes in terms of improved academic performance, enhanced social skills, and increased readiness for primary school.
- h. **South Korea's Digital Education Initiative:** South Korea has made significant investments in technology integration in education. They have implemented reforms that focus on digital learning resources, teacher training in technology integration, and infrastructure development. By leveraging technology in classrooms, South Korea has enhanced student engagement, personalized learning, and access to educational resources.
- i. **New Zealand's Bicultural Education Approach:** New Zealand has implemented reforms to recognize and celebrate its indigenous Māori culture in education. The curriculum incorporates Māori language, culture, and values, promoting a bicultural approach. This initiative has led to increased cultural awareness, improved educational outcomes for Māori students, and a stronger sense of identity and belonging.

These are just a few examples of successful implementation strategies for real-world educational reforms initiatives. By using a combination of these strategies, educational institutions can help to ensure that they are able to effectively implement new reforms and improve student outcomes.

4. Present case studies of educational reforms in different countries and regions focusing on the political motivations behind the reforms and the effectiveness of their implementation strategies

There are several case studies of educational reforms in different countries and regions that can help to illustrate the political motivations behind the reforms and the effectiveness of their implementation strategies and by studying these case studies, it is possible to gain a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities associated with educational reform, as well as the importance of engaging stakeholders, leveraging data and evidence, and implementing effective implementation strategies to drive student success^[9].

1. **The No Child Left Behind Act in the United States:** The No Child Left Behind Act was a major educational reform initiative in the United States that was passed in 2001. The political motivations behind this reform were driven by concerns about educational inequities and the need to improve student outcomes. The implementation

strategy involved providing additional resources and support to schools serving low-income students, as well as implementing accountability measures to hold schools and districts accountable for student performance. The effectiveness of this reform has been a subject of debate, with some arguing that it has led to improved student outcomes, while others have criticized it for its focus on standardized testing and its negative impact on teacher morale and student well-being^[10].

2. **The Education for All (EFA) initiative in Africa:** The EFA initiative was a major educational reform effort launched in 2000 by the African Union and other international partners. The political motivations behind this reform were driven by concerns about educational access and equity in Africa, as well as the need to promote economic development and reduce poverty. The implementation strategy involved increasing access to education, improving the quality of education, and promoting gender equity in education. The effectiveness of this reform has been mixed, with some countries making significant progress in improving educational access and outcomes, while others have struggled to implement the necessary reforms^[11].
3. **The Bologna Process in Europe:** The Bologna Process was a major educational reform initiative launched in 1999 by a group of European countries. The political motivations behind this reform were driven by concerns about the fragmentation of higher education in Europe and the need to promote greater mobility and cooperation among European universities. The implementation strategy involved standardizing degree structures, promoting student mobility, and enhancing the quality of higher education. The effectiveness of this reform has been significant, with the Bologna Process helping to facilitate greater collaboration and cooperation among European universities, as well as improving the quality and relevance of higher education in the region^[12].
4. **The National Curriculum in the United Kingdom:** The National Curriculum was a major educational reform initiative launched in 1988 in the United Kingdom. The political motivations behind this reform were driven by concerns about educational standards and the need to promote greater consistency and coherence in the curriculum. The implementation strategy involved developing a national curriculum framework, providing professional development opportunities to teachers, and implementing national assessments to hold schools and teachers accountable for student performance. The effectiveness of this reform has been a subject of debate, with some arguing that it has led to improved student outcomes, while others have criticized it for its focus on standardized testing and its negative impact on teacher morale and student well-being^[13].

The outcome and impact of these educational reforms can be analyzed by considering both the positive and negative aspects of each initiative.

In the No Child Left Behind Act in the United State

The Positive aspects is that it Increased focus on student performance and accountability, Provided additional resources and support to schools serving low-income

students, Led to some improvements in student outcomes, particularly in reading and mathematics. While the Negative aspects is that it overemphasis on standardized testing and accountability measures, Negative impact on teacher student well-being, Inequitable distribution of resources and support, resulting in persistent educational inequities^[14].

For the Education for All (EFA) initiative in Africa

The Positive aspects is that it Increased access to education, particularly for girls and children with disabilities, Improved quality of education, including teacher training and curriculum development, Promoted gender equity and reduced educational disparities. While the Negative aspects is the Inequitable distribution of resources and support, resulting in persistent educational inequities, Challenges in sustaining and scaling up the reforms over time, Limited progress in improving educational outcomes and reducing poverty^[15].

The Bologna Process in Europe

It's Positive aspects is the Standardized degree structures and improved comparability of qualifications, Facilitated greater collaboration and cooperation among European universities, Improved quality and relevance of higher education in the region. Why it's Negative aspects is the Limited impact on student mobility and international competitiveness, Challenges in ensuring consistency and coherence in the implementation of the Bologna Process across different countries and institutions.

The National Curriculum in the United Kingdom

It's Positive aspects is that it Provided a framework for teaching and learning, including clear learning outcomes and assessment criteria, Improved coherence in the curriculum across different schools and regions, Led to some improvements in student outcomes, particularly in literacy and numeracy. Why the Negative aspects is that it Overemphasis on standardized testing and accountability measures, Negative impact on teacher morale and student well-being, Limited progress in addressing persistent educational inequities and improving student outcomes for disadvantaged students.

While these reforms have had some positive effects, such as increased focus on student performance and accountability, they have also faced challenges, such as an overemphasis on standardized testing and accountability measures, and limited progress in addressing persistent educational inequities and improving student outcomes for disadvantaged students. Continued efforts to engage stakeholders, leverage data and evidence, and implement effective implementation strategies will be essential to drive student success and ensure the long-term sustainability of these reforms.

Conclusion

This paper discusses the importance of political motivation and implementation strategies in educational reforms and financial management. It highlights how political factors can drive educational reforms and influence financial management practices in educational institutions and also emphasizes that political motivation can lead to significant changes in education systems, such as curriculum reforms, teacher training programs, and infrastructure improvements. However, the successful implementation of these reforms

often depends on effective strategies, such as stakeholder engagement, communication, and resource allocation.

Also underscores the importance of achieving a balance between political realities and long-term goals in educational reforms and financial management. While political motivations can drive necessary changes in education systems, it is essential to ensure that these changes align with the long-term vision and goals of the institution. This balance can be achieved by adopting a strategic approach that considers the political context, engages stakeholders, and communicates effectively with the community. By striking this balance, educational institutions can navigate the complexities of political environments while remaining focused on their core mission of providing high-quality education to students. In conclusion understanding and addressing political motivations and implementing appropriate strategies are crucial for the successful implementation of educational reforms and effective financial management in educational institutions.

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