

# Chapter 11

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## GOVERNANCE, PUBLIC SPENDING AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES IN NIGERIA: A CRITICAL ASSESSMENT BY RISIKAT OLADOYIN S. DAUDA

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### 1. Introduction

It has been widely acknowledged that the growth and development of any nation is difficult to achieve without adequate and effective investment in human resources. Human resource development is an important prerequisite and invaluable asset for a country's socio-economic and political transformation. The way and manner public expenditure is allocated has important implications for human resource development. This is corroborated by Gupta et al (1998). According to them, public spending on education and health, because of its positive effects on the formation of human capital, can boost economic growth while promoting equity and reducing poverty. However, how productive and beneficial spending on education and health is, depend on how funds are allocated within these sectors. Furthermore, there is a growing consensus that the efficiency of spending and the degree to which spending is targeted to meet the needs of the vulnerable groups also have an impact on human development.

The literature on development studies documents a host of factors other than government expenditures that enable nations to