



Current Challenges for Nigerian Students: TERTIARY EDUCATION IN NIGERIA

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Brief Introduction:

- Statistically Nigeria:
 - Current population is 140 millions
 - Situated in West African sub-region
 - Has 10 million children without access to education at 2008 within the country
 - 4.7 million at primary education level
 - 5.3 million at secondary school levels
 - 250-300, 000 academically qualified students without university admission



Brief Introduction cont'd

- Over one million academically qualified secondary school students have no access to tertiary level of education (Polytechnics, Colleges of education, and universities)
- Only about 500, 000 students have opportunity to gain admission to study in universities
- Half of this population does not have opportunity to study the course of their choice.



GIEVA Survey

- About:
 - 98,000,000 under-employed or unemployed
 - 70,000,000 are between ages of 18-40 years
 - 21,000,000 are graduates from secondary and tertiary levels of education
 - 400,000 of these are graduates from Nigerian universities and polytechnics
 - They stay for 6-12 months before going for one year mandatory National Youth Service
 - After mandatory National Youth Service, only a few are able to be employed



Why the high rate of graduate unemployment?

- Graduates from most Nigerian universities are ill prepared for employment because of:
 - Constant closure of universities and polytechnics resulting from labor disputes
 - Poor academic infrastructure and learning environment
 - Inadequate qualified teachers
 - Inadequate funding of university academic programs



NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES COMMISSION(NUC)



What is it?

- It is a government accreditation body to monitor and regulate universities education in Nigeria with the vision to:
 - Be a dynamic regulatory agency acting as a catalyst for positive change and innovation for the delivery of quality university education in Nigeria.
 - To ensure the orderly development of a well coordinated and productive university system that will guarantee quality and relevant education for national development and global competitiveness.
 - Advise both the federal and state governments on creation of new universities

NUC major goals are:

- Work with all Nigerian Universities to achieve full and international academic accreditation standard
- Upgrade and maintain physical facilities in the Nigerian University System for delivery of quality university education.
- Foster partnership between the Nigerian Universities and universities in other countries.
- Foster and encourage private investments in University education



ROLES OF UNIVERSITIES

- Establish and maintain standards for academic programs
- Monitor, evaluate, prepare, and issue all academic transcripts
- Initiate and build partnership with other universities



GROWTH OF TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS IN NIGERIA



Growth of tertiary institutions in Nigeria

Year of establishment	No. of Public Universities (Federal)	No. of Public Universities (State)	No. Universities (Private)	No. of Poly-technics
1948-1970	5	-	-	3
1971-1980	10	1	1	20
1981-1990	5	9	2	5
1991-2000	-	6	5	10
2001-2008	-	1	15	5
Total	20	17	23	43



Universities

- Federal owned Universities
 - First Generation Universities (5)
 - Second Generation Universities (10)
 - Third generation Universities (5)
- State owned universities (32)
- Private universities (35)



Private Universities

- A recent development
- Inability of governments to fully continue to fund university education
- Passing a bill in 2002 by National Assembly making it possible for private organizations and individuals to establish universities and other tertiary institutions
- In less than 12 years 20 fully accredited universities were created and 15 new ones have been approved and they are at various stages of development



Universities-Private

- Nigerian Universities commission reviews applications, regulates, and give approval for the establishments of private universities
- Monitors and evaluates contents of content of academic program
- Monitors compliance of funding, staffing, and infrastructure



Positive impacts of Private Universities on Nigeria

- Has brought a healthy spirits of academic competitions between public and private universities in the country
- Has greatly enhanced the Public-private partnership in tackling the issues of university ,
- Brought private investment into education at tertiary levels
- Opened more placement spaces for qualified Nigerian students in need of university education
- Started linkage relationship between the foreign universities and private institutions opening opportunity for study abroad programs



Current Challenges Nigerian students face

- Although Nigeria students are hard working and committed they are faced with mountains of challenges to access university education:
 1. Very limited admission spaces in public schools
 2. Cost of tuition in Private schools
 3. Studying under a very substandard study environments
 4. Inadequate qualified and experienced teachers
- Substandard and outdated library resources
- Frequent electric power failures
- Frequent religious riots in some universities which affect students' security in the country
- Experienced teachers have left the universities to other universities outside the country or into other better paying jobs.



Current Challenges contd

5. Constant closure of universities due to labor unrest in public universities
6. Very unreliable electric power supply
7. Uncontrollable growth of cults in the public universities
8. Deplorable infrastructure
 - crowded student hostel accommodation
 - inadequate lecture and laboratory facilities
 - Neglect of sport facilities
9. Uncertainty of employment after graduation



Nigerian Universities in Pictures



FILTH

“But we know someone is getting paid to clean this place and is not doing it,” a student lamented



Labor



Harassment

An accounting student from one of the States.



University Librarian

- Scanty Library facility



PART OF SCIENCE LAB -BIOLOGY

Science labs are particularly
bad



FEES

- Federal and States owned universities charges only N20,000 (\$170) but with very poor Infrastructure.



Nigerian students' access to foreign education?

- Academically qualified students must seek for foreign school admission.
- Ability to write various international tests to support his admission
- Ability of students and their parents to fund the education outside the country;
- Educational advice from the embassies and some advising centers
- Ability to participate in educational fairs



Nigerian Academic Credentials (Graduates 1st degree)

GPA/CGPA	%	CLASS OF DEGREE
4.50-5.00	70% AND ABOVE	1 ST CLASS EXCELLENT
3.50-4.49	60-69%	2 ND UPPER CLASS DEGREE VERY GOOD
2.50-3.49	55-59%	2 ND CLASS LOWER DEGREE GOOD
1.50-2.49	50-54%	3 RD CLASS DEGREE FAIR
1.00-1.49	40-49%	PASS DEGREE



Nigeria Academic Credentials (Undergraduates)

WASSC Performanc e	GPA/CGP A	%	NECO Performan ce	GPA/CGP A	%
A Excellent	5.00	80=100 %	A Excellent	5.00	80=100%
B2 Good	4.00	75-79%	B2 Good	4.00	75-79%
B3 Good	3.00	70-74%	B3 Good	3.00	70-74%
C4 F. Good	2.75	65-69%	C4 F. Good	2.75	65-69%
C5 V. Fair	2.50	60-64%	C5 V. Fair	2.50	60-64%
C6 Fair	2.00	55-59%	C6 Fair	2.00	55-59%
D7 Pass	1.00	45-54%	D7 Pass	1.00	45-54%
NOTE: Prior to 1994, performance were					



Nigerian Academic Credentials

- Accredited universities and Polytechnics
- Authenticating credentials
 - Contact the individual university
 - Contact NUC
 - Contact WAECdirect.com
 - NECO website www.neconigeria.org



Verification of Secondary School Results

- It is safer and easier to get verification of academic results online
- Request the students to send:
 - Scratch card for WAEC results
 - Checker card for NECO results



West Africa Examination Council (WAEC)

- www.waecnigeria.org
- **Visit the home page of West African Examination Council (WAEC)**
- **Please be Advised that WAEC online results can be checked using Scratch cards as far back as to 1991.**
- **Request the student to send you his waecdirect scratch Card**
- **Do not accept results printed by the student without verifying the authenticity of the results online.**




WAEC Online Results

- WAEC May/June and Nov/Dec WASSCE results
 - WASSCE West Africa Secondary School Certificate Examination
 - WAEC May/June examination written at the end of School year
 - WAEC November/December Examination is written by external candidates only in November/December



National Examination Council (NECO)

- www.neconigeria.org
 - Visit the home page of National Examination Council (NECO)
 - Please be Advised that NECO online results can be checked using Checker Card as far back as to 2006.
 - Request the student to send you his Result Checker Card
 - Do not accept results printed by the student and sent to you without verifying the authenticity of the results online



Academic results verification for university graduates

- Request the students to arrange for his former university to send the academic transcripts direct.
- Never accept any academic transcripts sent by student himself.
- Be very cautious when accepting photocopy of academic transcripts from the university.
- When in doubt, contact National university's Commission Executive Secretary.



Important websites

- National Universities Commission (NUC)
 - <http://www.nuc.edu.ng>
 - The site provides current information on accreditation of existing university study programs, accreditation of new universities and approval for new private universities
 - Other important information relating to tertiary education in Nigeria
 - Visit individual university website using google search engine.



Websites contd.

- www.nairaland.com/nigeria
- www.ece.org ; www.wes.org
- www.fme.gov.ng
- www.gieva.org Email: contact@gieva.org
- *UNESCO Website can be useful as well.*
- *Google search engine for individual university*
 - This search engine will lead one to many up-to-date reports on current reporting on Nigerian universities education.



Guidelines to guide against fraud

- Make sure you ask the student to send you the Scratch cards for his WAEC and or Checker card for his NECO results
- Only get the transcripts sent to you by the university and not the student himself
- Contact GIEVA organization for some of the verification
- Get Financial statements only on headed paper of the bank and signed