

Proliferation of University Education in Nigeria: Implications for Human Resources

The proliferation of universities both public and private in Nigeria, despite the economic recession in the country since the 1980s, has increased the problems of the universities and their products so much that now their future seems uncertain (Ogunsola, 2004). In spite of the poor funding and its negative consequences, university population grew exponentially, leading to further strain on dilapidated structures. As student populations outstripped available lecture spaces and teaching resources, lecturers became overburdened with crowded classrooms and excessive grading responsibilities. Rather than respond to the quality issues resulting from over population, federal and state governments resorted to the proliferation of universities. The federal government over curiously announced the establishment of nine new universities recently at a time existing ones are on crutches. Yet, no provisions were made for capacity building opportunities for existing lecturers and the training of new ones. These developments have resulted in poor teaching and learning outcome in Nigerian Universities. Hence, this paper examined the implications of proliferation of universities education on human resources development in Nigeria. It was concluded that Nigeria universities should be equipped and modernized to be able to compete with other universities in the world. The paper recommended that federal government should grant full autonomy to all nations' university systems.