

IMPLICATIONS OF RANKING FOR NIGERIA UNIVERSITIES

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Abstract

Nigeria has abundance of talented university scholars who have excelled elsewhere but appeared incapacitated at home. There has been a great concern over low ranking (as none is quoted among the top 500) in Nigerian universities in the world. Whatever makes our abundant talents fail at home and excel abroad must be identified and neutralized for our benefit and that of our future generation. Taking a critical look at the rankings of Nigeria's universities nationally, internationally and continentally against the backdrops of university goals, university rankings indicators and their relevance to economic, social, and political growth/ development. We observed that Nigeria universities have retrogressed at an increasing rate in their economic growth. Nigeria's university administrators should think globally and in order to maintain universities of internationally comparable quality. This is the focus of this study. A descriptive survey was carried out involving the use of questionnaire as instrument. The problems related to the key performance criteria were grouped into the following areas which will be examined by university academics in Nigeria: Teaching (the learning environment), Research (volume, income and reputation), Facilities, Academic reputation, Student-to-faculty ratio (staff, students and research), International faculty ratio & international student ratio and Industry income (knowledge transfer). From findings, the major factors responsible for low ranking are incessant strikes by university teachers, Inadequate funding of universities, lack of facilities and equipment needed by universities in Nigeria universities, poor staff / student's research, low International faculty ratio as well as standard for ranking universities in Nigeria. Recommendations are made based on these findings. We recommended an emphasis on subject/ discipline ranking system for adoption by Nigerian governments as a barometer for increased funding of public universities in order to arrest graduate unemployment and boost university autonomy.

Keywords: Development, Graduate Facilities, Funding, Strike, Implications, Ranking, Unemployment.