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Nigeria

EDUCATION SYSTEM IN NIGERIA

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Нігерії

СИСТЕМА ОСВІТИ У НІГЕРІЇ

Education in Nigeria is the shared responsibility of the federal, state and local governments. The Federal Ministry of Education plays a dominant role in regulating the education sector, engaging in policy formation and ensuring quality control. However, the federal government is more directly involved with tertiary education than it is with school education, which is largely the responsibility of state (secondary) and local (primary) governments.

With the introduction of 6-3-3-4 system of education in Nigeria, the recipient of education would spend six years in primary school, three years in junior secondary school, three years in senior secondary school, and four years in tertiary institution. The six years spent in primary school and the three years spent in junior secondary school are merged to form the nine in the 9-3-4 system. Altogether, the students must spend a minimum period of six years in secondary school. During this period, students are expected to spend three years in junior secondary School and three years in senior secondary school.

Education system is divided into three stages based upon age:

Primary education

Primary education begins at the age of 4 for the majority of Nigerians. Students spend six years in primary school and graduate with a school-leaving certificate. Subjects taught at the primary level include Mathematics, English, Christian Religious Knowledge, Islamic Knowledge Studies, Science and one of the three main indigenous languages and cultures, Hausa-Fulani, Yoruba, and Igbo. Private schools also offer Computer Science, French, and Fine Arts. Primary school students are required to take a Common Entrance Examination to qualify for admission into the Federal and State Government Secondary Schools, as well as private ones.

Secondary education

Students spend six years in secondary school, that is 3 years of JSS (junior secondary school), and 3 years of SSS (senior secondary school). At senior secondary school class 2 (SS2), students take the GCE O'Levels exam, which is

not mandatory, but most students take it to prepare for the Senior Secondary Certificate Examination. Senior secondary school ends with WASSCE (The West African Senior School Certificate Examination). Junior secondary school is free and compulsory. It leads to the BECE (Basic Education Certificate Examination), which opens the gate to senior secondary school. SSS curriculum is based on 6 core subjects completed by 2 or 3 elective subjects. Core subjects are: English, Mathematics, Economics, one major Nigerian language; one elective discipline out of Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Integrated Science; and another elective out of English Literature, History, Geography or Social Studies, Agricultural Science or a vocational subject which includes: Commerce, Food and Nutrition, Technical Drawing or Fine Art.

Tertiary education

The government has majority control over university education. The country has a total number of 129 universities registered by NUC among which federal and state government oversees 40 and 39 respectively, while 50 universities are private. In order to increase the number of universities in Nigeria from 129 to 138 the Federal Government granted licenses to 9 new private universities in May 2015.

First year entry requirements into most universities in Nigeria include: minimum of SSCE/GCE Ordinary Level Credits at maximum of two sittings; minimum cut-off marks in Joint Admission and Matriculation Board Entrance Examination (JAMB) of 180 and above out of a maximum of 400 marks are required. Candidates with minimum of Merit, Pass in National Certificate of Education (NCE), National Diploma (ND) and other Advanced Level Certificates minimum qualifications with minimum of 5 O/L Credits provide direct entry admission to the appropriate undergraduate degree programs.

The typical duration of undergraduate programs in Nigerian universities depends largely on the program of study. For example, Social Sciences/Humanity related courses are 4 Years, Engineering/Technology related courses are 5 Years, Pharmacy courses are 5 Years, and Law courses are 5 Years, each with two semester sessions per year. Medicine (Vet/Human) degrees take 6 Years and have longer sessions during the year.

Students normally enter university from age 18 onwards, and study for an academic degree.