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THE GENERAL THEORETICAL ASPECTS AND LEVELS OF EDUCATION IN NIGERIA

INTRODUCTION:

The Federal Republic Nigeria, located in the western part of Africa, is made up of thirty-six states and a capital (Abuja), with the estimated population of about 192 million. Education being an instrument of change in Nigeria, education policy has been a product of evolution through series of historical developments and in achieving national development. Education in Nigeria is overseen by the Ministry of Education. Local authorities take responsibility for implementing policy for state-controlled public education and state school at a regional level. The education system is divided into Kindergarten education, Primary education, Secondary education and Tertiary education.

PRIMARY EDUCATION:

Primary education begins at around the age of 3 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 language, 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 [1].

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). By Senior Secondary School Class 2 (SS2), students are taking the GCE O' Level's exam, which is not mandatory, but most students take it to prepare for the Senior Secondary Certificate Examination. The Senior Secondary School ends on the WASSCE. Junior Secondary School is free and compulsory. It leads to the BECE, 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 out of biology, chemistry, physics or integrated science; one 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 arts. After the BECE, students can also join a technical college. The curriculum also lasts 3 years and leads to a trade/craftsmanship certificate. There are about two Federal Government Colleges in each state. These schools are funded and managed directly by the Federal Government through the Ministry of Education. Admission is based on merit, determined by the National Common Entrance Examination taken by all final year elementary school pupils. Tuition and fees are very low, approximately twenty five thousand naira (\$100), because funding comes from the Federal Government. State-owned secondary schools are funded by each state government and are not comparable to the Federal government colleges. Although education is supposed to be free in the majority of the state owned institutions, students are required to purchase books, uniforms and pay for miscellaneous things costing them an average of fifty thousand naira (\$200) in an academic year. Teachers in State-owned institutions usually have a National Certificate of Education or a bachelor's degree. Private secondary schools in Nigeria tend to be quite expensive with average annual fees averaging from two hundred and fifty thousand naira to One million naira (\$1000.00 – \$4000.00). These schools have smaller classes (*approximately twenty to thirty students per class*), modern equipment and a better learning environment. Most teachers in these institutions possess at least a bachelor's degree in a specific course area and are sent for workshops or short term programs on a regular basis. With the introduction of the 6-3-3-4 system of education in Nigeria, the recipient of the 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 [1].

National Examination (Secondary level): The General Certificate of Education Examination (*GCE*) was replaced by the Senior Secondary Certificate Examination (*SSCE*). The SSCE is conducted at the end of the Secondary School studies in May/June. The GCE is conducted in October/November as a supplement for those students who did not get the required credits from their SSCE results. The standards of the two examinations are basically the same. A body called West African Examination Council (*WAEC*) conducts both the SSCE and GCE. A maximum of nine and a minimum of seven subjects are registered for the examination by each student with Mathematics and English Language taken as compulsory. A maximum of nine grades are assigned to each

subject from: A1, B2, B3 (*Equivalent to Distinctions Grade*); C4, C5, C6 (*Equivalent to Credit Grade*); D7, E8 (*Just Pass Grade*); F9 (*Fail Grade*). Credit grades and above is considered academically adequate for entry into any university in Nigeria. In some study programs, many of the universities may require higher grades to get admission. The Federal Government policy on education is adhered to by all secondary schools in Nigeria. Six years of elementary school is followed by six years of secondary school. Junior Secondary school consists of JSS1, JSS2 and JSS3 which are equivalent to the 7th, 8th and 9th Grade while the Senior Secondary school consists of SS I, SS 2, and SS 3 which is equivalent to the 10th, 11th and 12th Grade. The Senior Secondary School Examination (SSCE) is taken at the end of SS 3. The West African Examination Council (WAEC) administers both exams. Three to six months after a student has taken the SSCE examination, they are issued an official transcript from their institution. This transcript is valid for one year, after which an Official transcript from the West African Examination Council is issued. The National Examination Council is another examination body in Nigeria; it administers the Senior Secondary School Examination (SSCE) in June/July. The body also administers the General Certificate of Education Examination (GCE) in December/January. Students often take both WAEC and NECO examinations in SSS 3 [1].

International Education: As of January 2015, the International Schools Consultancy (ISC) listed Nigeria as having 129 international schools. ISC defines an 'international school'. In the following terms, ISC includes an international school if the school delivers a curriculum to any combination of pre-school, primary or secondary students, wholly or partly in English outside an English-speaking country, or if a school in a country where English is one of the official languages, offers an English-medium curriculum other than the country's national curriculum and is international in its orientation [1].

TERTIARY EDUCATION:

The government has majority control of university education. The country has a total number of 129 universities registered by NUC among which federal and state government own 40 and 39 respectively while 50 universities are privately owned. In order to increase the number of universities in Nigeria from 129 to 138, the Federal Government gave 9 new private universities their licenses in May 2015. There are various requirements and examinations that must be taken before one can gain admission into a higher institution in Nigeria. For private higher institutions, a minimum of five O' level credit passes in relevant subjects (English and mathematics are compulsory) and getting the required cut off marks in the examination conducted by the private higher institution. For public higher institutions, a minimum of five/four O' level credit passes in relevant subjects, English and Mathematics are compulsory (*this depends on the type of public higher institution, there are federal and State owned higher institutions, some require higher grades before one can gain admission*), a minimum of 180 passes out of 400 possible answers in the (JAMB) Joint Admission and Matriculation Board Entrance Examination (*also depends on the institution, some require lower or higher scores*), getting the required cut off marks in the examination conducted by the public institution (*this also depends on the public higher institution*).

The Federal Government guidelines for admissions into its institutions are based on 45% Merit, 35% Catchment/Locality and 20% Educationally Less Developed States. It

should be noted that western education is at different levels of development in the different component units of the federation. This is as a result of different contact time with the western world. Other proprietors of tertiary institutions also have guidelines for admissions into their tertiary institutions. There are state-owned and private-owned institutions. However, all candidates seeking admissions into courses and programs leading to the award of first degree, National Diploma (ND) and Nigeria Certificate in Education, must sit for the appropriate matriculation examination conducted by the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board. These examinations are the Universities Matriculation Examination and the Mon technic, Polytechnics and Colleges of Education Matriculation Examination [2].

MEANS/WAYS OF ENTRY INTO A TERTIARY INSTITUTION IN NIGERIA

1. **Admission on merit:** Candidates with very high scores in each matriculation examination are given first consideration for their first choice of course and institution before other candidates [2].

2. **Catchment areas:** To give equal opportunities to all applicants, the States of the Federation are grouped into catchment areas of each Tertiary Institution. It is also called Locality which in most cases is the geographical and/or socio-cultural areas contiguous to the institution candidate apply to. Consideration is given to students who fall within the catchment areas of the Tertiary Institution. Some of these Institutions have all the states of the Federation as their catchment area while state-owned Institutions have all the local government areas of their states as their catchment area [2].

3. **Educationally Less Developed States (ELDS):** Certain states are considered educationally less developed. Candidates from these states are given special concession for admission. The Tertiary Institutions assign lower cut-off marks to this category of candidates so that they can be given opportunity to forestall a lopsided development of education in the country [2].

4. **Admission by direct entry:** Direct entry admissions are for certain categories of candidates who need not go through the selection examination. They are candidates who possess higher entry qualifications such as Advanced Level Certificates, Nigeria Certificate in Education (NCE), National Diploma (ND), Higher National Diploma (HND), First Degree, etc. Nonetheless they must satisfy the normal general entry requirements as a pre-requisite for admission. Students in this category are admitted into the second year (200 Level) in the universities [2].

DEGREE PROGRAMS: Nigeria's university system resembles that of the United States. It includes an undergraduate bachelor's degree, followed by a master's degree, and a doctoral degree. The system includes post graduate diploma, as well as non-university National Diploma, and Higher National Diploma Programs [3].

TECHNICAL VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Higher technical and vocational education is provided at technical colleges, polytechnics, and monotechnics. Entry into these institutions is based on the JAMB-MPCE exam combined with results from upper secondary school. There are two main qualifications:

The National Diploma (ND) – This is a two-year program that combines theoretical instruction with practical training. Many programs include a mandatory industrial placement component [3].

The Higher National Diploma (HND) - is the second stage of education at technical colleges, polytechnics, and monotecnics. It follows the ND, which is typically required for admission. The program is two years in length, theoretical instruction is at a higher level than at the ND level, and there is usually less emphasis on practical training. The HND gives student access to some Postgraduate Diplomas at universities [3].

In addition to the ND and HND, colleges and specialized training institutes offer programs in nursing and allied health fields. The *Nursing and Midwifery council of Nigeria* awards the Certificate of Registration in Nursing upon completion of a three-year training program at nursing schools. The certificate entitles holders to practice nursing in Nigeria. Upon one additional year of study in midwifery, the Council also awards a Certificate of Registration in Midwifery. The Institute of Medical Laboratory Technology awards the Associate Diploma of Medical Laboratory Technology and the Fellowship Diploma on the basis of 4+1 years of postsecondary education [3].

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ПРОСТІР ПРАВА ЯК ОСОБЛИВА ФУНКЦІОНАЛЬНА КАТЕГОРІЯ ЮРИДИЧНОЇ ТЕОРІЇ І ПРАКТИКИ

Розмірковуючи про простір права не можна не визнати, що сьогодні цей простір - весь світ.

Простір права є той масив суспільних відносин, який характеризується правом. Він утворюється на перетині індивідуального, групового і соціального буття. «Правовий простір - це межа об'єктів, якісна своєрідність яких формується правом» [1, с.165]. Індивідуальні та загальні інтереси складають простір правового буття в тій частині, в якій для їх збереження потрібна наявність безумовно обов'язкового нормативного порядку, що спирається на легітимний примус.

Простір - це особлива функціональна категорія юридичної теорії і практики. Відображає виникнення, вираження і межі будь-якої правової дії, процесу, норми, стану, події. У просторі регулюються правовідносини. "Правові відносини" - це