## The Challenges of **ODL in Developing Countries:** The Way Forward

**Olugbemiro Jegede** 





#### **Excited to Be Part** of Your Retreat



- Thanks to Prof Adamu Hassan, the Director DLC ABU for this historic invitation.
- Glad that DLC an integral part of the growth and development of ABU. A Mark of Excellence.
  - As an Alumnus of ABU, it is really my pleasure and honour to be part of your Retreat.
  - Exciting using a DL Technology in a DL retreat thousands of kilometres away.
- Look forward to my physical visit to DLCABU





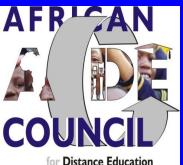
#### Ahmadu Bello University Zaria - Nigeria



#### Curtin University











#### UNIVERSITY OF ABUJA

Collateral Learning and the Eco-Cultural Paradigm in Science and Mathematics Education in Africa 1995



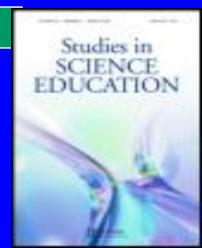
#### **Olugbemiro Jegede**





政府創辦·多元創新

Government established · Diversified and innovative









Introduction

Education and Development The History of ODL World wide & Nigeria **Why use ODL in Higher Education** Indices of Indispensability ✓ Uniqueness of ODL Challenges of ODL in Developing Countries Conclusion







- Why educate everyone?
  Why LLL for All?
  Why remove disparities in educate everyone?
- Why remove disparities in educational access?
- Why search for alternative delivery modes
- Why look for flexible and cost effective means?



**20th & C21st global changes** 

Provide two contrasting aspects of humanity: development and doom

Search for peace, cure for AIDS, life XX

War, catastrophes, digital divide

Education identified as solution

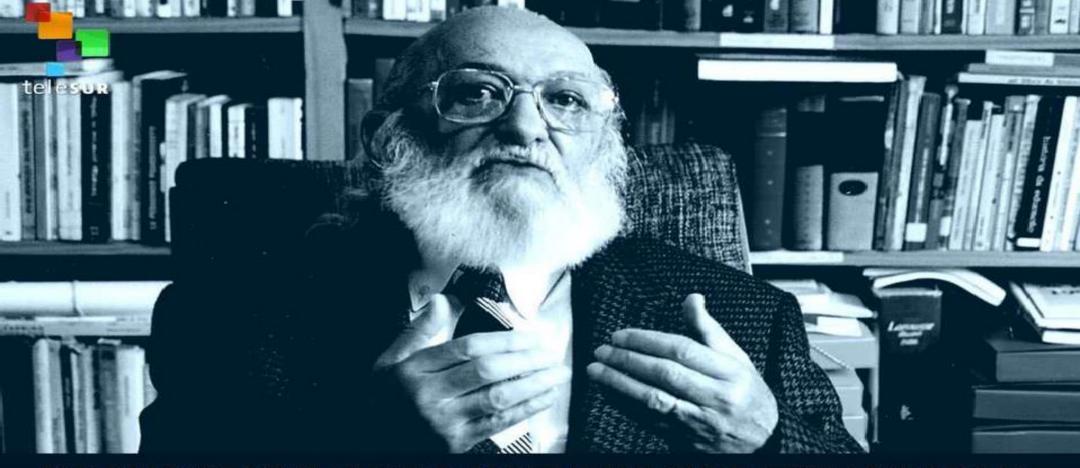


Nelson Mandela, an anti-apartheid revolutionary, Fmr South Africa President, and

**Nobel Peace Prize awardee** 

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

"No country can really develop unless its citizens are educated."



#### "EDUCATION DOES NOT CHANGE THE WORLD. EDUCATION CHANGES PEOPLE. PEOPLE CHANGE THE WORLD."

**PAULO FREIRE** SEPT. 19, 1921 – MAY 2, 1997



education is the most important instrument of change in any society". And that "any fundamental change in the intellectual and social outlook of any society has to be preceded by an educational revolution"



## Goals of the C21st



#### sustainable development

- highly educated, mobile and adaptable workforce
- multi-skilled and multi-tasked
- a knowledge and a learning society
- use of ecological and geographical conditions to a nation's advantage





- 1948: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights article 26 ensures right to free elementary education for all children.
- 1990: the World Declaration on Education For All
- 2006: the UN Convention on Rights of People with Disabilities
- MDGs & SDGs Agenda 2030
- The 2015 United Nations Paris Climate Change Conference (Conference of Parties 21),
- Agenda 2063 (AUC/ENECA/NEPAD), and
- Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 2016).







- UN General Assembly in 1948 proclaimed the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights as the** solution for educational problems in the world
- Article 26 deals with the right to education
  - Everyone has the right to education
  - **Education shall be directed to full development of the** human personality
  - Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children

The Agenda document considers the strategic importance of education in human development



clear relationship between a country's institutional governance frameworks, economic progress and education offered its people.

Level of development in Africa related to the level of education

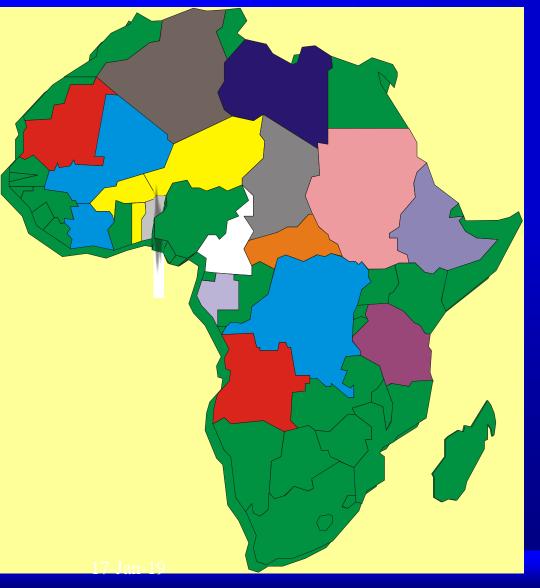
Illiteracy, poverty, low development indices have roots in Low level of Education



## **Obvious Characteristics**

## ub-Sahara Africa





POPULATION Over 1.2 billion, 75% rural •3% population growth The world's youngest region. Have 30% of the world's poorest people. **EDUCATION** 

•45% of the population are children under 15 years \*

Higher Educ need 465,000 academics

Weak STEM base



- **Declaration for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2000**
- Declaration on Education For All in 1990
- 72million children out of school
- 759 million adults without basic education
- 18 million primary school teachers needed in 2015
- Global demand for higher education to hit 263 million by 2025



## Demography





Population 198,078,189 as of Sunday, December 16, 2018, based on UN estimates.

Nigeria's grows by 2.7 % annually, population will double by the year 2066.

110 million youth under the age of 25 years rising to over 200 million in 50 years' time.

22.1 million out of 42.1 million in primary schools;

10.4 million out 33.9 million Nigerians eligible for secondary education, are in school

Has the highest rate of out-ofschool children in the world.<sup>18</sup>









## Demographic Trends







## Rising Enrolments







## Lifelong & Life-wide Learning









## Globalisation









# Knowledge as a Commodity



## **Dividend of Demography**



- Effective and efficient management of the dividend of **Demography and access to higher education**
- Africa has over 1.2 billion inhabitants, half of this are under the age of 25 years.
- Nigeria has 198 million people with only 25 per cent in higher institutions.
- Africa must take advantage of its enormous demography to ensure unfettered access to higher education.
- A new paradigm for mass education must be explored.

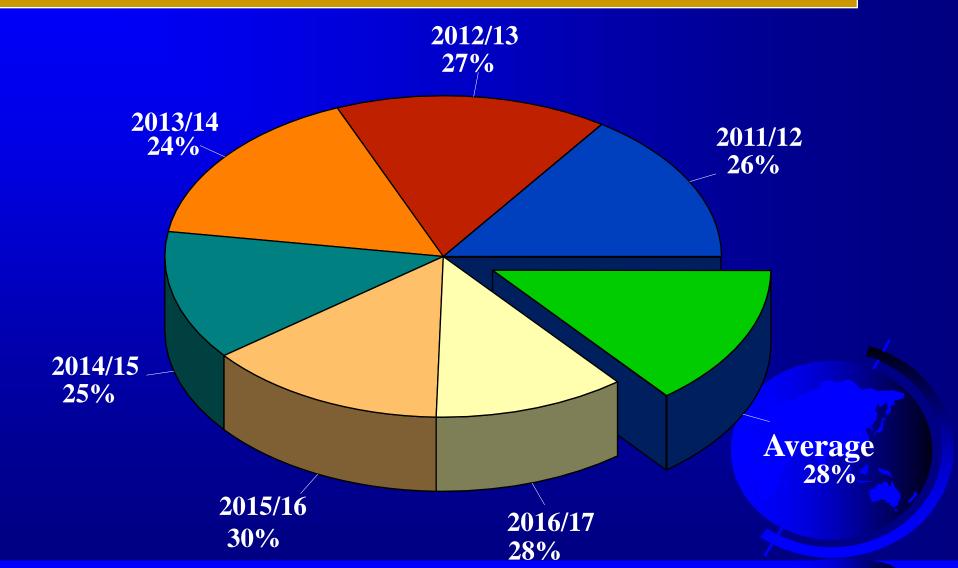






Level	Number	Students	No Access
Primary	56,000	42.1 million	20.1 million
Secondary	12,000	33.9 million	23.5 million
Voc & Tech	140	4.5 million	2.7 million
Col. of Educ	138	650,000	3 million
& Polytechnics	113	450,000	2 million
University	171	1,996,312	6 million











Formal education system cannot cope with admission requests

- About 28 per cent of applicants admitted to Universities, Polytechnics & Colleges of Education
- Need to enhance Education for All and Lifelong Learning initiatives
- Need to search for alternative forms of instructional delivery
- Illiteracy, poverty, low development indices have roots in low level of education
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## Lay a solid foundation for education in the new century

Seek a cost-effective, efficient, robust, and flexible mode to educate all

Be part of the global economy and use of ICT for all aspects of our national and individual activities



#### Goals of C21st HE in Africa



#### **TrustAfrica** says it is critical to:

"Develop a high quality, massive, vibrant, diverse, differentiated, innovative, autonomous and socially responsible higher education sector that will be a driving force [in achieving the continent's long-term development goals].

Produce the human capital required for the continent's inclusive and sustainable development, democratic citizenship, and repositioning as a major global actor."

# Open Access: a 21 st Century <u>mperative</u>







### **Open and Distance Learning:**

- weapon of mass instruction
- democratises and liberalises education
- flexible and life long
- quality assured and includes all
- allows individualised learning and at own pace



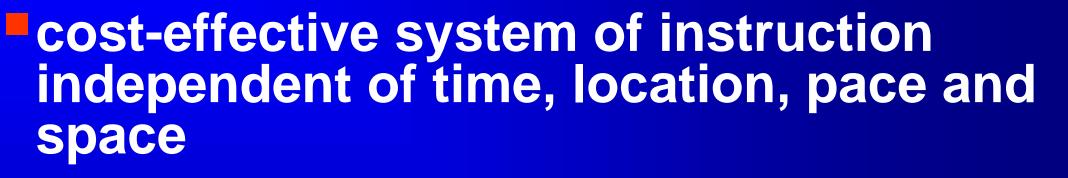




DL has many labels: 'Correspondence', Telematic, 'Distributed', E-learning, 'Online Learning', 'Virtual Learning'

- Instruction by a mode other than the conventional face-to-face method
- Characterised by physical separation between the teacher and the learner, instruction delivered through a variety of
- Media including print, and other information communication technologies to learners





used for a variety of learning situations: primary, secondary, tertiary, vocational and non-formal education

It thrives on economy of scale

focused on QA, well designed instructional packages, student support<sub>4</sub>



Open Learning - flexibility of and access to instruction in order to ensure broad availability of educational opportunities to all

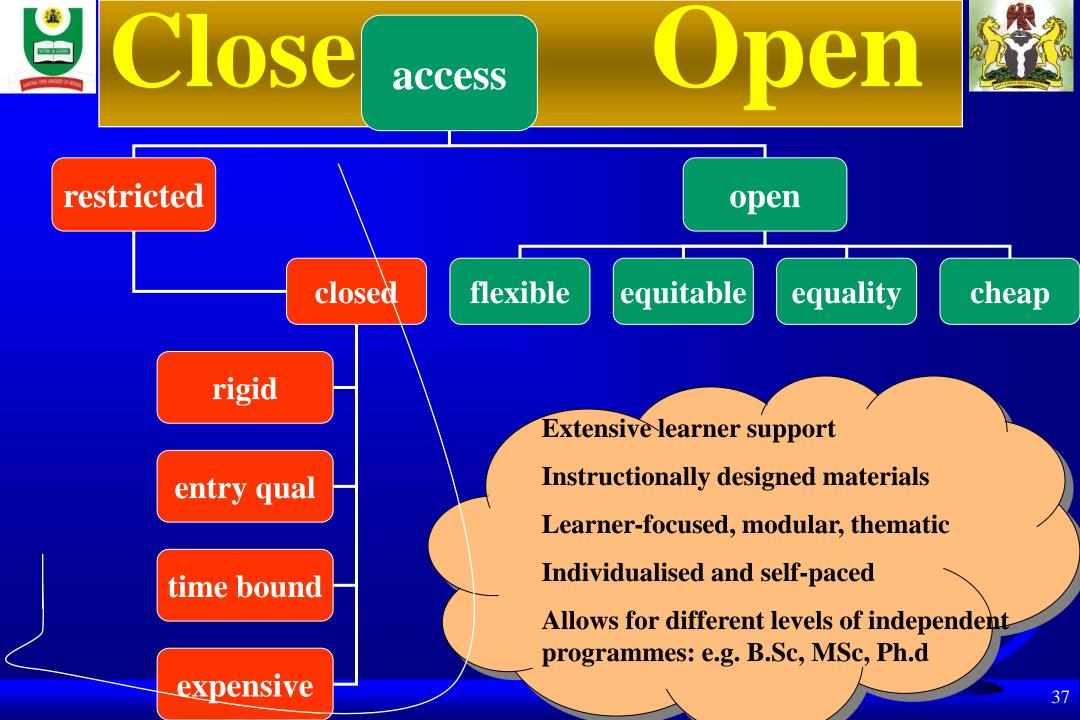
Openness disregard age, previous level of academic achievement, and other factors, creating artificial barriers to education as a life-long pursuit in a democratic environment







Mixed mode: convergence, Deakin Uni Franchise mode: offshore licensing Industry special universities Cross-border collaborator mode Dual Mode: UI, OAU, Charles Stuart Single mode: NOUN, OUUK, OUHK, UNISA







- Provision of Instructional materials and student support services
- The use of technology to mediate instruction
- Two-way communication between student and institution for management purposes
- Use of one-to-one, learning groups or tutorial groups for counselling, tutorials and management



## History of ODL

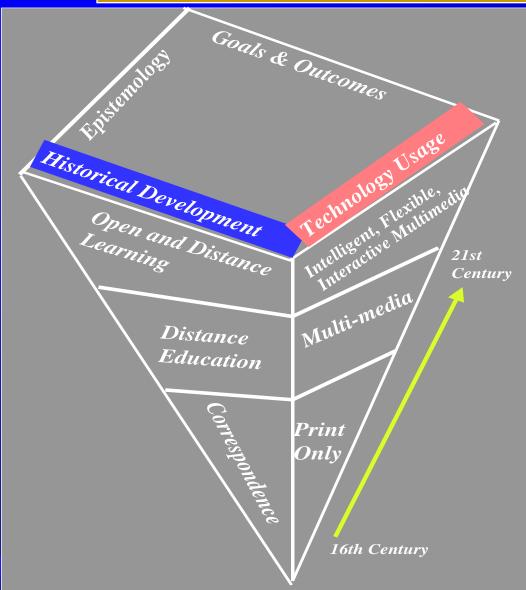


- 1728 Caleb Phillips and Anna Tickner to teach short hand
- 1840 –Sir Isaac Pitman to teach short hand and made feedback on assignments
- 1828 University of London 'People's University'
- 1882 University of Chicago
- 1889 Queen's University in Canada
- 1906 Columbia University
- 1911 University of Queensland
- 1946 University of South Africa
- 1969 UK Open University
- 1972 Athabasca University
- 1990 New Zealand Open Polytechnic

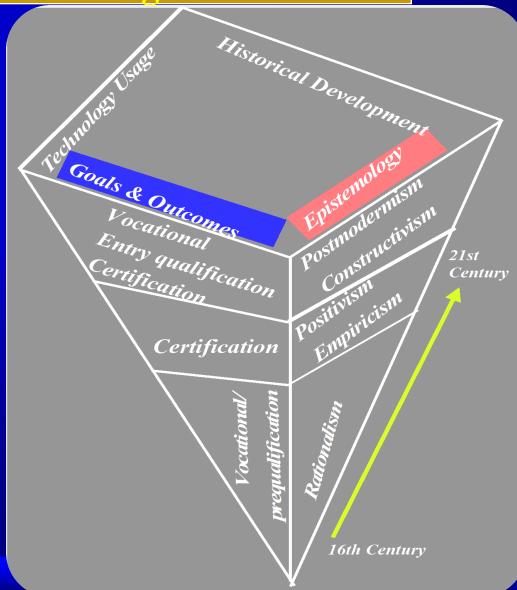








WORK & LEARN







- 1947 Oxford University Extra mural studies at the UCI
- GCE of London and Cambridge as correspondence
- Rapid Results College and Wosley Hall as first set of organised distance learning programmes in Africa
- 1960 English Radio Programme by NBC, ETP of NTV
- 1972 ABU University of the Air
- 1974 COSU, COSIT, DLI of UNILAG (first tertiary Dual mode Univ)
- **1978 NTI**
- 1983 NOU (planning started in 1976)
- UI 1988, UNIFE (OAU) 2003
- 2002 NOUN
- Other DI I/DI C





**First edition 1977, revised 1981, 1988, 2004** 

2 major philosophical principles and 5 main national goals

"education is the most important instrument of change in any society". And that "any fundamental change in the intellectual and social outlook of any society has to be preceded by an educational revolution"



## NPE and ODL



#### **Government adopted:**

- "policies which were to be directed towards ensuring that there are equal and adequate educational opportunities at all levels".
  - "make life-long education the basis for the nation's education policy"

"after primary education an individual will be able to choose between full-time studies, combining work with studies...alternative mode of learning" "the education system structured to develop the practice of self-learning".  Infrastructural Development

Physical facilities

•Laboratories

 Human Resource Development

> •Capacity Building

Open, Distance & E-Learning

Academic Units

Instructional Delivery

Learner Support

 Information and Communication Technology
 Other Support Systems





#### Continental Effort:

- Many Africa governments are now taking ODL seriously with the advent of SDG Life long learning for All
- A number of Africa Presidents/Head of State trained through ODL –Egypt, South Arica, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Ethiopia
- African Union planning to establish Pan African Virtual & E-Learning University (PAVEU)
- Slow adoption of ICT for delivering quality higher education
- The future of ODeL is quitesbright in Africa



### **Achievements in ODL**



- The enactment of a national policy on open and distance education and its incorporation into the National Policy on Education;
- Strengthening teacher education development through the National Teachers Institute (NTI);
- Establishment of National Open University of Nigeria,
- Resuscitation of the National Open Distance Education Network (NODEN);
- Promotion of dual mode delivery of education in some conventional universities;
- The reconvening of an Advocacy workshop on ODL held in April 2009 where the first Decade Plan on ODL (2000 – 2010) was evaluated and 2010 – 2020 declared as the second decade;
- Inauguration of two Committees to work on refocusing ODL in line with the recommendations of the advocacy workshop.



## Uniqueness of ODL



The ODL institution is quite different
Must be treated differently
The characteristics of an ODL institution suggest that its setting up and management are more demanding

Adequate, appropriate and well qualified human resource must be found

Your materials are open to the world! 4







- gulf between intent and action
  lack of capacity and capability
  political expediency driving the Plan
  inequity & economic/political/digital divide
- absence of a central coordinating and monitoring unit for the Plan
- lack of cooperation/ collaboration amongst sectors/organisations

# Strategic Issues



## **Policy Matters1**



Africa has about 40 institutions using ODL, less than 10 are OUs

- Fewer than 10 countries have ODL policies (Cameroon, Nigeria, Namibia, Sierra Leone)
- ODL policy influences access, equity, quality assurance, regulation of cross border education, develop skills training, provide realistic budgetary framework, direct expansion of infrastructure.
- Without a well crafted and implementable ODL policy no country in Africa would meaningfully use ODL for educational and in-country development issues





Lack of political will and sincere support for ODL

- Support from govt must be top down
- African govts spend pittance on education and hardly anything on ODL
- Nothing goes to ODL from external aids
- Countries with ODL policy need to review them in line with contemporary development





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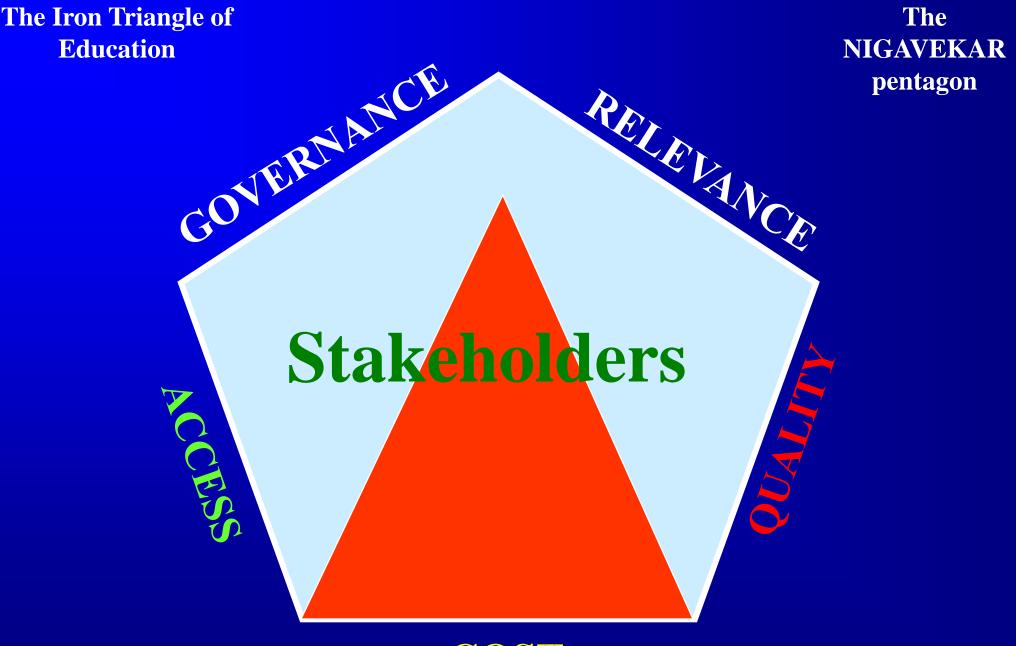
- Many ODL practitioners don't really understand how ODL works
- inadequate massive and comprehensive advocacy
- Practitioners do not appreciate the shift from dominantly teaching-based to dominantly learning-based approach of ODL
- Learning, as defined in ODL is still an emerging and little understood model of social action





#### Does it fit the university culture?

- Is your mission statement related to the University's and used as foundation?
- Use scenario planning
- Use strategic compass
  - Identify what you do best and use as beacons
- Combine top-down with bottom-up approach



COST

## Understanding ODL



Low Awareness



Lack of or limited advocacy and appreciation of what ODL means

- General ignorance and illiteracy in the society
- Treated as poor cousin of f2f
- Resistance by and threat to other sectors and organisations and employment bodies

Government appears confused about the placement of ODL





#### No knowledge of the Philosophical Foundation

- Limited understanding of the actual role of ODL in a country's development in literacy and human capital development
- Not fully appreciated as a disciplinary study
- Actions and policy not backed by research and scholarship



**Competition within the education sector** 



ODL is hardly regarded as complementary to conventional f2f system

ODL seen as threat to the conventional F2F system

Academics in F2F never prepared to appreciate or learn the ODL way

Regulatory agencies are often in opposition to ODL

# Resourcing ODL





**Limited physical Infrastructure** 

Issues with location and siting

**Issues with energy supplies** 

Maintenance of Facilities

Limited warehouse facilities & distribution networks





No clear path of human resource outlay

- Limited learner support systems
  - Academic support

Non-academic support: Administrative, Guidance Counsellors, Instructional facilitators

Non-availability or poor study Centre facilities







#### **Poor quality**

Issues with sourcing of the materials

#### Limited use of OER

Faulty design features and pathways

**No policy on delivery** 

**Poorly managed assessment systems** 62



Academic support **Non-Academic support Administrative Psychological Guidance Counsellors** Instructional facilitators Study Centres – regional, state, community

# Technology



- Choice, type, size and appropriateness
- Ease of Access and Learner-friendliness
- Scalability and Robustness
- Development of E-learning facilities: LMS, SMS
- Use of IT in TMA and Examinations

# Other ISSUES



Quality Assurance
Customer Relationships
Business Model
Cost Structure and Revenue Streams

## Regulatory or Co-ordinating Framework



## What is Regulation?



#### General:

Principle or rule (with or without the coercive power of law) employed in controlling, directing, or managing an activity, organisation, or system.

#### Legal:

Rule based on and meant to carry out a specific piece of legislation (such as for the practice of education).





The provisions of a legislation is also called regulatory requirement.

NUC, NBTE, NCCE, EBEC, TETFUND, CBN

NCC, NMC, NJC, PENCOM, COREN, ACON, the UN system, EU, AU, ECOWAS, SADEC







Regulation is driven by several motives:

the technical justifications by a government that is assumed to be acting in pursuit of the public interest.

rationalisation and coordination

rights-based and social rationales



Three main approaches to regulation: "Command and control," Performance-based, and **Management-based.** 



## **Command and Control**



- government bureaucracy often uses this.
- the majority of regulations have taken the form
- the regulatory agency sets forth methods, materials, and the processes by which the regulated entity must operate.
- creates certainty—for the government, the regulated entity
  - easy for the regulator to observe and evaluate, and therefore to determine compliance.
- Critics say it is expensive, stifles innovation and the regulator may not necessarily have the ability to develop the most efficient safeguards.





#### Prescribe the Benchmark Minimum Academic Standards (BMAS)

### Accreditation

### Quality Assurance

Assessment and Evaluation of Staff

### Visitation

## September 2000 Workshop



- In September 2000, Government held a historic national workshop titled "Towards Evolving a National Policy on **Distance Education in Nigeria.**" Profound outcomes of the workshop, which propelled the development ODL in Nigeria, included the following
  - The need for the establishment of an inter-sectoral coordinating body to continually review the practice and development of DE in Nigeria,
  - The need to develop a comprehensive policy that will regulate and promote the growth and development of DE in Nigeria, and
- All these led to the development of a 10-year Plan (2001-2010) for rejuvenating ODL which was endorsed to serve as a catalyst for the rapid turn-around of education in Nigeria.

# Nee6/to Regulate







Following the preliminary work of the National Open and Distance Education Committee (NODEC) set up on 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2009 by the Federal Ministry of Education,

a 37-member group was inaugurated on 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2010 as the National Advisory Committee on Open and Distance Education (NACODE).

The Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Committee were, amongst others, to advise government on refocusing the practice of ODL in Nigeria. The Committee given ninety days to submit its report?



## Rationale



Given the anticipated expansion in the use of ODL in Nigeria and the need to address all other areas Nigeria is found wanting as indicated in the results of the evaluation of our performance in a **Decade of Distance Education in Nigeria** (2001 – 2010), it has become absolutely important and compelling for Nigeria to have an agency that will coordinate all the areas of ODL as we aim to achieve enhanced access to quality education within the next decade.



### Charge to Developing Countries



- work towards the establishment of an Agency whose main responsibilities and roles would include, amongst others, the following:
- draw up a code of practice for both overseas and local providers of Open and Distance Learning (ODL);
- determine the benchmarks for quality assurance and its applications from time to time;
- develop guidelines to check the proliferation of ODL certificates;
- Propose strategies to strengthen collaboration and partnerships that offer support for ODL; and
- any other criterion that will fast track Africa's ODL to make it globally competitive.





## ToR 7



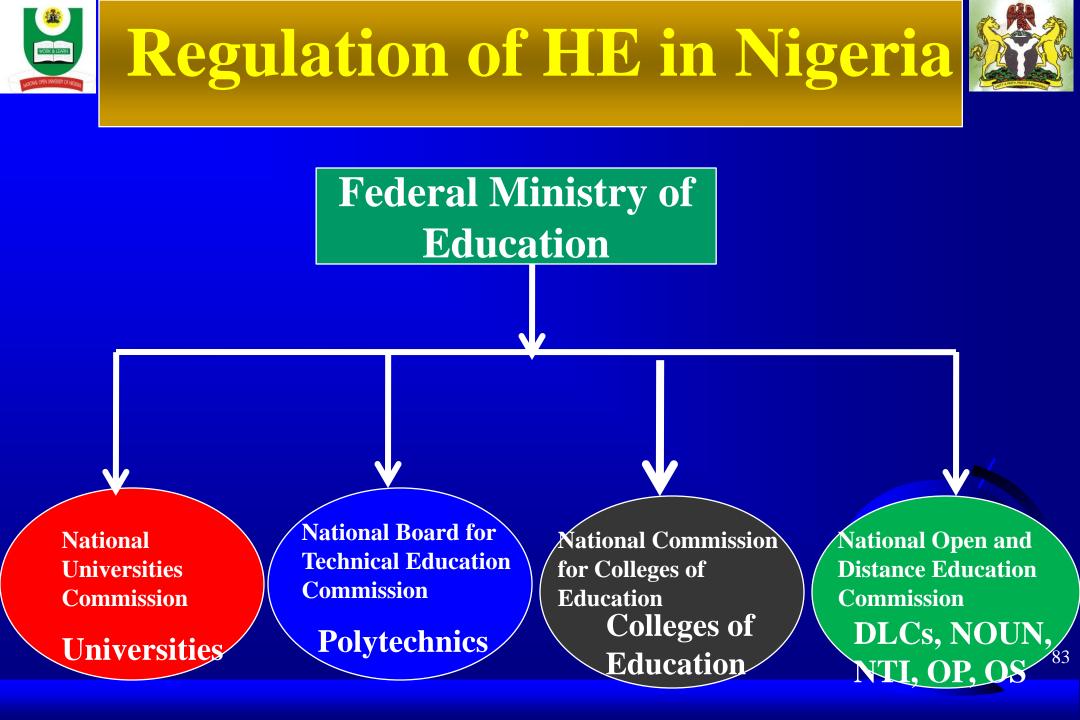
- To recommend and suggest the modalities for the establishment of an agency to manage, regulate and promote the growth and development of ODL activities in Nigeria and to suggest a viable organogram for such an agency to effectively articulate a clear, concise and pragmatic vision of open and distance learning appropriate and relevant for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and beyond.
- Recommendation:
- There shall be established a National Open and Distance Education Commission (NODEC). It shall be the agency to manage, regulate and promote the growth of ODL activities in Nigerian education system. The agency shall be similar to the existing regulatory agencies such as NUC for Universities; NBTE for mono and polytechnics and NCCE for colleges of education.







### The Report was submitted to Government 9 months after, in September, 2010.







**relate plan to your national policy** 

- **Political will and support at the highest level of government**
- commitment to adequate funding
- regular check on milestones and benchmarks on the strategic plan
- an appropriate institutional culture
  shared vision and committed staff

And enjoy the remaining part of your Retreat