

# The Educational System in Nigeria

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Nigeria was first colonized by the British. She got her independence on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1960. During the colonial era (1914 - Sept 1960) and until 1982, Nigeria had the 6 – 5 –3 education structure. With this structure Nigerians spent six years for primary education, 5 years in the grammar school and three years for University education. Before an individual goes to the University to learn he or she must have obtained Advanced level Certificate through high school or G.C.E and a diploma certificate from Colleges of Education or other equivalent.

With the New National Policy on Education (1981) Nigeria now has the 6 – 3 – 3 – 4 educational system: 6 years for primary education (for ages 6 to 12 years), 3 years for junior secondary, 3 years for Senior Secondary School, and four years for University education.

The policy has made it possible for vocational education to be taught at all levels of education. In fact, at Junior Secondary School level, vocational subjects such as Home Economics, Business Education, Introductory Technology and Agricultural Science have been made compulsory for both sexes.

But before the introduction of vocational education in school through the 6 – 3 – 3 – 4 education system, there were a proliferation of vocational education institutions in many parts of Nigeria. These institutions organised their training programmes in an uncoordinated manner. The institutions included vocational training centres which offered two to three years post-primary training: domestic science centres and technical schools. The domestic centres were mainly for females while the technical schools were mainly for males. These programmes, however, were considered not to have fully achieved their objectives such as economic and social development. One of the reasons given for the failure of the programmes is that they were not gender-specific, especially in the informal sector. Hence the introduction of formal vocational education in schools.

Most often when the girls complete their studies they do not find job easily. Consequently some decide to continue their education or get married or become self-employed to get their daily bread.

Dr Ukpore is glad to have visited Mauritius: "It is a beautiful place and the people are very hospitable. The GASAT 11 conference has also been well organised and the organizing committee deserves commendations".