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In this post, we will discuss on the education system in Nigeria. Here, we will review the current system of education in Nigeria. We will also review the history of Nigerian education system. In Nigeria, the education sector is under the supervision of the Ministry of Education. The responsibility for the implementation of state-controlled policy that governs public education and state schools rests on the shoulders of local authorities. Education policies in Nigeria is not balanced due to political and ethnic disunity. Quality learning, curriculum and funding differences can be observed across the different regions in the country. Schools in the northern part of the country are not as developed as those in the southern parts, and the quality of learning is not at the same level. [Read More: 10 Problems of Universal Basic Education \(UBE\) in Nigeria and Possible Solutions](#) Primary, Secondary and Tertiary levels of Education in Nigeria - Photo Source: Presently, Nigeria is burdened with the highest population of out of school children in the world with most of those children residing in the north. To be a graduate in Nigeria, one would have to go through Primary education, Secondary education and Tertiary education. Education System in Nigeria The system of education in use today in Nigeria is the Universal Basic Education (UBE) also known as the 9-3-4 system which was introduced to replace the 6-3-3-4 system of education This newly adopted system took effect in 2006 and it is expected to be reshaped to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) target. The system mandates that a child will have a compulsory 9 years of basic education up to JSS 3. He/she then moves on to spend 3 years in senior secondary school. The next stage is the tertiary stage where degrees are handed out after 4 years. [Read More: 15 Ways to Improve Education in Nigeria](#) Primary School Level The Universal Primary Education program was established in 1976 and was revised to meet up to standards in 1981 and subsequently, 1990. It was replaced by the Universal Basic Education, UBE, and its objective was to improve the success of the first nine years of schooling, which is 6 years of primary school education and 3 years of junior secondary school education. Transition from one class to another is by excelling in promotion exams. The final examination in the primary school level is the Primary School leaving certificate, and if one passes this exam, the individual can now proceed to the secondary school level. The federal government, through the Universal Basic Education Commission does its best to make primary education free and compulsory for every child. But the truth of the matter is that government schools in Nigeria is not up to the standard of learning required for the growth and development of a child in the 21st century. This has led to the set up of privately owned schools which are better managed and are well suited for parents who are looking to get their child/wards the best education they can afford. At the primary school level, students are taught basic knowledge in Mathematics, English language, Basic science, Social studies, Religious knowledge and one out of the three most popular languages. [Read More: Problems and Prospects of Educational Technology in Nigeria](#) Secondary School Level Secondary school education is divided into two categories; Junior Secondary School (JSS) and Senior Secondary School (SSS). After graduation from the primary school level, qualified students will spend 3 years in the Junior secondary school and another 3 years in the senior secondary school. Some students can decide to take the GCE O'Level exam at the second year (SS2) of their senior secondary class to prepare for the Senior Secondary Certificate Examination (SSCE). Some secondary school subjects include: English, Mathematics, Economics, Civic Education, one or more electives out of Biology, Chemistry, Physics, one or more electives out of Geography, English literature, History and a vocational subject like Technical drawing, Food and nutrition, etc. Under the Universal Basic Education (UBE), junior secondary education is also free and compulsory. In the thirty-six states of the federation, there are at least two federal government colleges which are managed and funded by the federal government through the ministry of education. These schools were intended to be the model schools for secondary schools in Nigeria but management and funding issues still plague some of the schools across the nation. Admission into these schools is determined by the National Common Entrance Examination. The tuition fee is also relatively modest because funding comes directly from the federal government. State owned schools and privately owned schools still provide competition for the federal government colleges. In state owned schools, education is sometimes free but students are required to provide their personal learning equipment like books and uniforms. [Read More: 15 Problems of Education in Nigeria and Possible Solutions](#) The schools are understaffed due to low budgets and irregularities in payment of staff salaries. Although, some state colleges like King's college and Queens college, both in Lagos state are regarded as elite colleges because of their high educational standards and history of producing alumni who are prominent citizens in Nigeria today. The current rankings of these schools have dropped significantly due to the presence of private schools. Private schools in Nigeria are a lot more expensive. It is for children whose parents are high up the economic ladder and can afford such enormous tuitions which can range from two hundred thousand to a million Naira. The presence of modern learning equipment and quality teaching staff in private schools make it the school of choice for rich parents in Nigeria. Tertiary Level Tertiary education in Nigeria consists of Universities, Polytechnics, Monotechnics, and Colleges of education. There are about 129 universities registered by the Nigerian University Commission (NUC) in Nigeria today. Out of which 40 is owned by the federal government, 39 by the state governments and the remaining 50 are private owned. Entry requirements into tertiary institutions in Nigeria after the secondary school level include: Minimum of 5 credits in SSCE/GCE at maximum of two sittings; JAMB score of at least 180 and candidates with minimum of merit pass in NCE, National Diploma, and other advanced level certificate minimum qualifications with minimum of 5 O'Level credits are given direct entry into the appropriate degree programs. After a candidate has met these requirements, he/she will spend a minimum of 4 years in the tertiary level. And that concludes the 9-3-4 system of education in Nigeria. Those candidates who couldn't meet the qualification to get into a University, can choose to either go to a College of Education or a Polytechnic. The disadvantage of this is that the Nigerian labour market still prefers a University degree to a HND certificate. [Read More: 5 Tips to Improve Nigerian Education](#) Conclusion It is worthy of note that government owned schools in Nigeria are in a bad condition and in need of urgent reforms. Schools are not well equipped and strike actions are commonplace. Necessary actions need to be taken to make sure that the education system in Nigeria is able to meet up with global standards, so that the graduates who are churned out on a yearly basis are sound enough to cater for the needs of the 21st century Nigeria. Secondary education in Nigeria plays a crucial role in shaping the academic and professional future of students. It serves as the midpoint between primary and tertiary education, equipping students with the necessary skills and knowledge for higher education or vocational training. This detailed analysis explores the historical background, structure, curriculum, importance, challenges, and examination systems governing secondary education in Nigeria. Secondary education in Nigeria is the formal stage of education that comes after primary education and before tertiary education. It is designed for students between the ages of 11 to 17 and serves as a training ground for future professionals in various fields. Provides foundational knowledge and critical thinking skills. Prepares students for higher education and specialized career paths. Enhances students' social and leadership skills. Develops a student's ability to adapt to different fields of study. Encourages technological, scientific, and vocational development. Before Nigeria gained independence in 1960, secondary education lasted for five years. After completing this period, eligible students proceeded to a two-year Higher School Certificate (HSC) program, which qualified them for university education. This system followed a 3+2 structure: Three years of junior secondary education. Two years of senior secondary education. However, the education system underwent major reforms after independence. In 1982, recognizing the need to improve education, especially in science and technical subjects, the Nigerian government extended secondary education to six years. The goal was to expand the curriculum to better prepare students for the demands of the modern world. This reform introduced the 6-3-3-4 system: 6 years of primary education 3 years of junior secondary education 3 years of senior secondary education 4 years of university education (or more, depending on the course). This system remains the standard in Nigeria today. The secondary education system is divided into two stages: Designed for students aged 11 to 14. Provides basic and general education in subjects such as English, Mathematics, Social Studies, and Introductory Science. At the end of JSS3, students take the Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE). Continuous assessment is used to evaluate student performance. Students are categorized into academic or vocational paths based on performance. Designed for students aged 15 to 17. Students specialize in science, arts, or commercial subjects. At the end of SSS3, students sit for the Senior Secondary Certificate Examination (SSCE), which is a requirement for university admission. Two national examination bodies conduct this exam: West African Examination Council (WAEC). National Examination Council (NECO). The curriculum of Nigerian secondary schools is divided into core and elective subjects, ensuring students receive broad and balanced education. English Language Mathematics Civic Education One major Nigerian language (Hausa, Yoruba, or Igbo) Biology Computer Studies Science Students: Chemistry Physics Agricultural Science Further Mathematics Arts Students: Literature in English Government History Christian Religious Studies (CRS) or Islamic Religious Studies (IRS) Commercial Students: Economics Commerce Accounting Business Studies Technical/Vocational Subjects: Home Economics Technical Drawing Automobile Engineering Entrepreneurship This structure ensures that students specialize in their chosen field while gaining general knowledge in other subjects. At the end of the secondary school cycle, students take national standardized exams to qualify for further education. Conducted to assess students before they enter senior secondary school. Subjects tested include Mathematics, English, and Social Sciences. Students take either of these two major exams: West African Examination Council (WAEC). Conducts the West African Senior Secondary Certificate Examination (WASSCE). Recognized internationally. Used for university admission within and outside Nigeria. National Examination Council (NECO). Conducts a similar SSCE examination. Focuses on Nigeria's education policies. Both WAEC and NECO certificates are accepted for university admission. However, some students prefer WAEC due to its wider international recognition. Despite its importance, secondary education in Nigeria faces several challenges: Many public schools lack adequate classrooms, libraries, and laboratories. Overcrowding is common due to inadequate school buildings. Government funding for education is often insufficient. Many schools struggle with teacher salaries and resources. Cheating, bribery, and certificate forgery are common issues. Some schools and students engage in illegal practices to pass exams. Many teachers are underqualified or lack motivation due to poor salaries. There is a shortage of qualified science and technical teachers. Frequent policy changes affect curriculum stability. Some reforms are not effectively implemented. To improve secondary education, the government must: Invest in infrastructure to provide better school facilities. Increase teacher salaries to attract qualified professionals. Enhance curriculum development to match modern job market needs. Implement stricter laws to curb examination malpractice. Promote vocational education to reduce reliance on white-collar jobs. If these measures are implemented, secondary education in Nigeria will produce more competent graduates, helping to drive national development. 67% (3/67) found this document useful (3 votes)5K viewsThis document discusses crucial issues in the management of primary education in Nigeria. It highlights key issues such as policy gaps, lack of data, insufficient funding, weak institutional...Yussuff Obaphemmie YussuphSaveSave Management of Primary and Secondary Education in N... For Later67%67% found this document useful, undefined The Director The director of the school is Chief (Mr.) Ifeanyi Obi. He is also referred to as the 'school daddy' He is in charge in all segments of the school. Head of Administration. The head of Administration, is in charge of the administrative cadre of the school. (S)he heads all the non-teaching staff of the school. The success of the school rest solidly on the administration of the school.The administrative section captures the account department, the ICT, cleaners, drivers etc. The Principal: The principal is the head of junior secondary school. He is in charge of allthe teachers in the secondary school. He oversees to the functionality of 'the secondary school and its curriculum.