

An Analysis of Problems Encountered by Post-graduate Students in Nigerian Universities

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ABSTRACT This study analyzed the problems encountered by postgraduate students that hindered their studies in Nigerian universities. This was necessitated by the observation that most postgraduate students in Nigeria tend to graduate long after the stipulated time period for their programmes, indicating an apparent disparity between “what is” and “what ought to be” in running postgraduate programmes in Nigeria. It was hypothesized that the problems encountered delayed the timely completion of studies. Literature was reviewed on the Production Theory in Education which rests on the “Input-process-output” model as the theoretical framework for the study, as well as the needs assessment of higher education. The data collection instrument, designated Postgraduate Students Problems Questionnaire (PGSPQ) was developed by the investigator and validated by a jury of experts. The universities were stratified along ownership. The research design was ex-post-facto, no variable was manipulated. The subjects were 438 postgraduate students studying in sixteen Federal-owned and nine State-owned universities in Nigeria. One research question was answered and one null hypothesis tested in the study at the 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that the system is plagued with numerous complex and deep-rooted problems ranging from systems/procedural problems to socio-politico problems and personal/psychological problems, and that these problems actually hindered their studies and contributed to late graduation. Recommendations were made with the intent to attract greater attention from the producers of education in Nigeria if the maximum potentials of scholars at this level must be effectively tapped for greater productivity, and thus, national development.