

Comparative Analysis of Public and Private Universities Administration in Nigeria

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ABSTRACT The study made a comparative analysis of private and public universities administration and their students' academic performance. Descriptive survey design was used for the study. The study drew the sample of 20 public universities (10 state owned and 10 federal owned) and 20 private universities in Nigeria. 100 respondents (including teaching and non-teaching staff in charge of the data needed for the study) were selected from each university, which amounted to 4000 staff. Simple random sampling was used to select the sample. The study developed and utilised a questionnaire tagged "Mode of Administration Questionnaire (MAQ)" with reliability coefficient (r) of 0.74. While the final year results of students in the sampled universities from the period of 2006/2007 - 2008/2009 academic sessions were used to determine students' academic performance. The study used chi-square test (χ^2) for the data analysis. While the null hypotheses developed for the study were tested at .05 level of significance. The findings revealed that there is significant difference between resource availability, resource utilization, governance, and students' academic performance in public and private universities. Also, it was concluded that there is no significant difference between student entry requirement in public and private universities in Nigeria. It was therefore recommended that universities should be adequately funded, and they should be granted the autonomy to manage their affairs in conformity with the best traditions of accepted academic norms. Also, the hierarchy of authority should also change to make room for the adoption of autonomy and thus encourage the development of universities.