

2013 NEW ORLEANS CONFERENCE

PROPOSAL-

Title of Presentation: Gender, Higher Education and Development in Nigeria 2002-2010

Education is a vehicle for social change. It has been linked to all kinds of development. It is an important tool for reducing poverty and all kinds of inequities. It is so important that the U.N. Education for All calls for the elimination of gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005, and achieving gender equality in education by 2015, "with a focus on ensuring girls' full and equal access to and achievement in basic education of good quality". Several international conventions have been held on the issue of gender and education. These include the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination in Education (1960), Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979) and Convention on the Rights of the Child (1980). All of these point to the importance and necessity of encouraging and enhancing the education of girls and women in order to improve the condition of women and empower them for both personal, family, and national development. Using national data from the National Bureau of Statistics and some international data, this study posed the following questions-

1. Is there gender disparity in the number of students admitted into Nigerian universities between 2002-2010?
2. Is there gender disparity in number and percentage of students studying the STEM fields for the years 2002-2010?
3. In terms of the STEM fields, what are the areas with the highest percentage of female students and what are the areas with very few students?
4. Is there gender disparity in terms of female faculty in the upper ranks for selected federal universities?

The study found that there was gender disparity in favor of male students for many Nigerian universities. It also found that for most of the areas of engineering, there was a less than 30 percent graduation rate for female students. It also found that for many of the federal universities, there was gender disparity in terms of faculty rank with most of the Professors being males. As a result of the situation, the study made some suggestions on how best to get more female students into federal universities.

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