

**ASSESSMENT OF INTERNATIONALISATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN
PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES IN OSUN STATE
(2004-2014)**

SUCCESS AYODEJI FASANMI

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**A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL
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CERTIFICATION

This research project written by Success Ayodeji FASANMI with Registration Number EDP13/14/H/2071 in the Department of Educational Management has been read, approved and adjudged to meet part of the requirements for the award of M. A. Ed (Higher Education Administration) of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria.

Dr. A. S. Adelokun**Supervisor**

Dr. (Mrs.) C. A. Okotoni**Acting Head of Department**

DEDICATION

This research work is graciously dedicated to my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ: “The Author and Finisher of my faith” (Hebrews 12:2).

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ABSTRACT

The study identified the existing internationalisation measures in public universities and investigated the various human and material resources employed in the process of internationalisation of public universities in Osun State. It also examined the stages involved in the execution of internationalisation measures in public universities and investigated the level of internationalisation of higher education in public universities in the study area. These were with a view to providing information on the role of internationalisation in university development in Osun State from 2004 to 2014.

The descriptive survey research design was used for the study. The population consisted of all the 25 Deans, 132 Heads of Department (HODs), 24 Faculty Officers (FO's) and two Student Affairs Officers (SAOs) in Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), Ile-Ife and Osun State University (UNIOSUN), Osogbo. The sample of the study comprised 58 respondents including eight Deans, 42 HODs, six FOs and two SAOs from the two institutions. Proportionate random sampling technique was used to select five Deans from (OAU), and three from UNIOSUN as well as 30 HODs from OAU and 12 from UNIOSUN. Three FOs and one SAO were selected from OAU and UNIOSUN respectively using simple random sampling technique. Thirty-three percent of the total population was selected in each category. Two instruments were used to collect information from the respondents namely; Assessment of Compliance with Internationalisation Process Questionnaire (ACIPQ) and Internationalisation of Higher Education Measures Questionnaire (IMRQ) Data collected were analysed using simple percentage and content analysis.

The results showed measures of internationalisation such as research collaboration, faculty exchange and development, cooperative teaching, international student mobility, academic freedom, branch campus system, distance education, scholarship funding, on-line presence, stable internet access and functional laboratories with an aggregate mean of ($\bar{X} = 14.8$) at Obafemi Awolowo University and ($\bar{X} = 7.5$) at Osun State University. The results also showed that human and material resources and effort directed towards internationalisation include collaboration in teaching and research, provision of research grants, regular curriculum reform, emphasis on graduate employability, compliance with National Universities Commission (NUC) benchmarks provision of scholarship grants with an aggregate mean of ($\bar{X} = 18.8$) at Obafemi Awolowo University and ($\bar{X} = 9.3$) at Osun State University. The results further showed activity, competency, ethos and process approaches to internationalisation at Obafemi Awolowo University with an aggregate mean of ($\bar{X} = 17$) and at Osun State University with an aggregate mean of ($\bar{X} = 7.8$). Finally, the results revealed that the level of internationalisation at OAU was higher than at UNIOSUN as indicators of internationalisation such as electronic learning, open education resource, stable academic calendar, quality basic and applied research, communication linkage, stable internet access (for staff and students), on-line presence, cross campus research collaboration had an aggregate mean of ($\bar{X} = 16.9$) at Obafemi Awolowo University and ($\bar{X} = 8.3$) at Osun State University.

The study concluded that internationalisation measures contributed positively to the development of teaching, research and service in universities in Osun State.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background to the Study

The training offered in the educational system of any nation is expected to be useful beyond its borders and at the same time be accessible to non-indigenes (foreigners). Recipients of such training especially at higher education level are expected to function effectively in any setting, and be able to favourably compete with their counterpart in other climes. This demands that global values in teaching, research and community services are to be observed in institutions of higher learning.

Universities are international organisations with a diverse staff and student body. They have links, partnership and collaborations with universities, business and other organisations around the world. Incorporating global academic values is essential to their ability to effectively carry out the core function of teaching, research and administration and drive knowledge expansion. Hence, universities across the world seem to have recognised the need to interact with one another as a means of expanding frontiers of knowledge. This may account for the adoption of internationalisation strategies such as faculty exchange and development, international student mobility, research collaboration, branch campus system, distance education in form on-line degrees administered to recipients.

Faculty exchange programmes provide participants with the opportunity to teach or conduct research for a period of time either at another university within the country or an overseas university. Faculty exchange and development provides numerous benefits ranging from exposure to a culturally-varied and diverse faculty make-up, with an opportunity to exchange ideas and observe a variety of practices. It is one way to take advantage of the benefits of diverse faculty as one of the ultimate goals of higher education institutions is to develop a vibrant and diverse faculty. This process, however takes a deliberate and decisive effort. The need for rich variety of ideas, cultures, thoughts, and styles among faculty members cannot be overemphasized as teaching which is carried out solely by faculty members is one of the three cardinal functions of higher education. Students who are important stakeholders in the University will have the opportunity to learn concepts and ideas presented in an entirely new and different manner. The faculty exchange programmes present a unique opportunity for foreign versus home universities interaction and home versus home universities interaction. This could give room for cross-fertilisation of ideas and knowledge among concerned institutions and could also be a powerful tool for knowledge expansion.

International Student Mobility is an internationalisation strategy which affords students, at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, the opportunity to study outside their home institutions. It is an important means of attracting talent and expanding campus diversity. International students are those who have crossed borders to study and are not residents or citizens of the country in which they study. This however does not imply that home institutions do not have what it takes to meet their students' needs but the purpose is to give the students the opportunity

to interact with other international students and have a broader knowledge and experience through contact with foreign experiences. It may also foster competition, interaction, cross-fertilisation of ideas and awareness of global realities.

Research is an integral aspect of higher education. The need for broader and wider research activity has informed collaboration among researchers home and abroad. One of the ways of internationalising has been through research collaboration among academics. Chan and Dimmock (2008) emphasized the importance of research in the internationalisation process by defining Internationalisation of university as the process of integrating, international, intercultural and global dimension into the purpose, functions and delivery of education and research of the concerned university. Although modern communication systems especially the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) facilitate exchange of information without any need for direct contact, collaboration in research give room for personal interaction and complementary expertise which facilitate innovative research and improved educational system.

Branch Campus System also known as multi-campus system and Distance Education which may be in form of on-line programmes are also internationalisation strategies. Branch Campus System is a system whereby educational institutions run its programme in more than one location. A number of universities in Nigeria run a multi-campus system. An example is Osun State University, Osogbo (UNIOSUN) which happens to be one of the institutions which

constitute the scope of this study. It is sometimes referred to as multi-campus system or collegiate system. Distance Education on the other hand is a system whereby recipients or students do not need to be physically present at the location of the institution. Recent development in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has facilitated this to a large extent as institutions of higher learning now run on-line programmes which do not require the students to travel to the location of the institution throughout the period of the academic programme. Lectures are arranged on line through a forum which students can connect with from any location via the internet. Assignments, discussions and examination are also done on-line. In Nigeria, The National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN) which was established initially

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