

Inequality of Education and Universal Basic Education in Nigeria: What Role for Adult Education?

By

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Abstract

The issue of inequality in the education system in Nigeria is not an easy thing to discuss, due to multi-facet factors. First, to say that education is not equal is like saying people are not of the same height. Again: inequality has varying shades and interpretations. For instance, when children of the same age attend schools with differing amenities or gaining admission to school at different times instead of same time or simply put when they cannot access education or have the same access to education or to particular school, we say education is not equal.; but on the part of government and education planners, when education at the primary school is free and compulsory; choices are opened to all for secondary school education; various levels of tertiary education is opened for people to make choice and compete; and of course Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) is made available to all and sundry, it is believed that education is equal or that at least opportunity is giving equally to people. However, giving equal opportunity to all to compete has not solved inequality problem and in fact, it is adding problem to already existing ones. This paper sets to examine factors of inequality in the Nigerian Universal Basic Education (UBE), examine the role Adult education can play in abating the inequality and make recommendations on how to ensure equal education for all by year 2015 as stipulated by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Keywords: *inequality, basic education, education, adult education, equality, universal basic education*