



# **NIGERIA**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The Federal Government of Nigeria firmly believes that the major route to adequately lay out the implementation strategies for massive and cost effective returns in education is through the use of Open and Distance Learning (ODL).

### **Use Of ODL In Nigeria**

The use of open and distance learning as a viable solution to Nigeria's educational and other developmental needs is visible in many ways. Two of which are discussed below:

### **Increased Access to University Education**

The continued increase in the population demanding university education in the last ten years revealed that there are more university applicants unabsorbed than those admitted by the universities in the country as indicated in the table below:

**Table 1: Number of Applicants and Admissions by Universities  
from 2002/2003 – 2007/2008**

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of Universities</i>	<i>No. of Applicants</i>	<i>No. Admitted</i>	<i>% Admitted</i>	<i>Left Over</i>
2002/2003	53	994,380	51,845	5.2	942,535
2003/2004	54	1,046,950	105,157	10.0%	941,793
2004/2005	56	841,878	122,492	14.5%	719,386
2005/2006	75	916,371	NA	NA	NA
2006/2007	76	803,472	123,626	15.4%	679,846
2007/2008	95	1,054,053	200,000	19%	854,053

*Source: Joint Admission and Matriculation Board.*

As the above table reveals, the Universities cannot admit up to 20% of eligible candidates.

### **On-the-Job Training Needs**

Another reason justifying the need of an open university in Nigeria is the continued demand for higher qualifications by employers of labour especially for promotion and assessment factors. The scenario is such that those already employed cannot afford to resign for further studies. Thus open and distance learning system provides the opportunity for such people to maintain their employment and still attend classes to improve their knowledge as well as their academic status.

### **TOP PRIORITIES**

1. Develop the capacity and skills of teachers to use ICT in the teaching and learning process.
2. Develop Media facilities and resources to enhance information delivery.
3. Dedicate a Radio and TV station with a wide area interconnectivity to ODL centres locally and internationally.
4. Recruit professional ODL personnel to effectively manage ODL institutions.
5. Develop an ODL Database accessible to all ODL centres for sharing of information.

### **WHAT COL CAN DO TO FURTHER SUPPORT NIGERIA'S AGENDA**

1. Technical assistance in the establishment of Nigeria's Open School.
2. To revitalise and reinvigorate the Regional Training Institute on Distance Learning (RETRIDAL) to the level of CEMCA, India to be able to cater for the whole of Africa.
3. Capacity building of ODL staff
4. Capacity building of Medical and Public Health workers.