

Teaching Journalism in a Proliferated System: The State of Journalism Education in Nigeria.

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Abstract

University education began in Nigeria in 1948 with the establishment of the University College located in Ibadan. This eventually metamorphosed into what is presently known as the University of Ibadan. It is the oldest of such in Nigeria. The University of Ibadan initially mounted courses in the Arts, Education and Medicine. Other disciplines emerged thereafter. However, the idea of offering courses in Communication/Journalism became a reality in 1976 when the University converted the Reading Centre into the Department of Language Arts. This subsequently evolved into the present Department of Communication and Language Arts in 1980.

Teaching journalism in higher institutions in Nigeria was borne out of the rapid growth of the media sector and the need for manpower to occupy the vacancies which the expansion created. Nigeria currently has 102 universities and other degree awarding institutions recognized by the National Universities Commission (NUC) and the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE). Of this number, 25 are owned by the Federal Government, 30 by the state government, 40 are privately owned and 7 other affiliated colleges to existing universities. As at the time of writing this abstract, 7 new universities had just been granted license to operate. In the same vein, about 50 of the universities offer degrees in Mass Communication, Communication and Journalism, apart from other institutions such as polytechnics, monotechnics and colleges of technology. Ogundimu, Oyewo and Adegoke (2007: 18), were of the view that, “the Nigerian training programmes have more than doubled In the last four years alone, there is very little publicly available information about these programmes” Adequate as these programmes might seem, it leaves a big unanswered question as the quality of training. Journalism and Communications training is located in different departments across these institutions. The Joint Admissions and Matriculations Board Brochure presents the following profile in the 2009/2010 brochure: 15 institutions have located in the faculty of arts/humanities, departments of Mass Communication, Communications/journalism, 24 in the faculty of social/management sciences. The issue of domicile is one key area which the overseeing university education body has had to grapple with. In recent times, the department of Mass communication had to be relocated to the faculty of

social/management sciences in Ajayi Crowther University, Oyo and Bowen University, Iwo (private institutions in Nigeria) to meet accreditation requirements.

This paper examines *the peculiarity of teaching journalism in such system like Nigeria. This paper submits that certain* factors such as improper definition of curriculum, ambivalent structure of some departments, quality of staff (theory vs. practice, poaching) Facilities (energy, equipment), development strategy (budget and sustainability, management, links and recognition) affect the institutions output of journalism training schools. The paper consequently, was of the belief that glut occasioned by overproduction of these classes of graduates with limited openings for

Introduction

University/Tertiary education began in Nigeria with the establishment of the University of Ibadan in 1948 as a College of the University of London. The University College then started off with two faculties: Arts and Medicine. Courses were offered in these two areas. However, as the need arose, the university consciously expanded its programmes. Presently, the University has a College and thirteen Faculties: 2 institutions, various unites and other programmes.

Journalism education training did not commence at the University until 1976, when the then reading centre was converted into a Department of Language Arts. It however, metamorphosed into the Department of CLA, in 1980 with emphasis on the training of students in Communication Studies with emphases on Mass Communication training. Within the Faculty of Arts where it is located, the Department of Communication and Language Arts is an attraction to every admission-seeking student either at the undergraduate level and/or Post Graduate level. Currently, the Department runs three PG programmes: M.A., M. Phil., Ph.D academic programmes and MCA, a professional programme. The department also continues to be the flagship of Journalism training in Nigeria. An impressive number of Journalism education teaches either obtained their M.A., M.Phil and Ph.D degrees in the department. This is also evident in the staff profile of the University of Lagos: a UNESCO's Potential Centre of Excellence. Notably, the University Ibadan: Department of Communication and Language Arts is a UNESCO's potential Centre of Reference: Mass Communication or Communication Arts, or Communication Studies as a popular course of study among prospective youths seeking University education. However, the statistics in respect of the actual number of prospective students is not readily available. Too the popularity rating of the course could be inferred from

the number of universities offering various degree programmes in Mass Communication and Mass Communication related courses. For example, this writer in a paper presented Wits last year in said that about 80 institutions offer various degrees in Mass Communication at the University level. In a paper presented at the Power Reporting Conference in October 2009, this writer raised the issue of location of Communication and Mass Communication Department. This writer submits that two lines of the divide are noticeable. First, are those that situate the department in the Faculties of Arts and Humanities, second, those that locate the department in the Faculties of Social Sciences/Management Sciences. In recent times, institutions have often been counseled, after, accreditation exercise, that the Department of Mass Communication/Communication should be re-located to the Faculties of Social Sciences and Management Sciences. Ajayi Crowther University, Oyo, Oyo State, Nigeria Bowen University, Iwo, Osun State, Nigeria have had to heed that wise counsel.

This paper, however seeks to identify the location of the department in various institutions as well as bring to the fore the issue of teachers in the universities.

Journalism, Education Training in Nigeria

Today, there are about 80 institutions offering courses in Journalism/Mass Communication. However, between 1962 – 1980, only two institutions offered training in Journalism/Mass Communication. These are:

- (1) University of Nigeria, Nsukka, which started a Department of Mass Communication in 1962.
- (2) University of Lagos started a Department of Mass Communication in 1967.

The Daily Times training school 1965, Nigeria Broadcasting Corporation Training School (now FRCN), in 1967.

Since that period, other journalism training institutions ranging from the University type, the Polytechnic type, the Monotechnic type and the on the job training type. However, there appears to be an upsurge in the number of institutions offering Journalism/Mass Communication/Communication Studies courses, while these courses appear to be the most sought after, however, the statistics of students who subscribe to these programmes, is not available but experience, over ten years of teaching journalism in the University of Ibadan support this claim.

Rationale

This paper seeks to discuss the constraints in teaching journalism in a proliferated system like Nigeria. It equally seeks to bring to the fore, the location of the department in the various institutions. This paper examines three private-universities in the South-West of Nigeria and the University of Ibadan. These are:

- (1) Ajayi Crowther University, Oyo, Oyo State.
- (2) Bowen University, Iwo, Osun State.
- (3) Joseph Ayo Babalola University, Ikeji-Arakeji, Ondo State.

Methodology

This methodology adopted in this study was a triangulation of observation, documentary analysis and interview. The researcher observed (Document observation) the 2010/2011 brochure of the Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB) to determine the location of the department of Mass Communication/Communication Arts, and the nomenclature the department bears.

JAMB is a statutory body of the Federal Government of Nigeria, established in 1978. It was established to regulate undergraduate admissions into all universities in Nigeria – Federal, State and privately owned, either through a University Matriculation Examination or by Direct Entry. However, the responsibility of the body had become expansive as it now superintends over admissions into both Polytechnic and Colleges of Education through its tertiary Matriculation Examination. The Brochure is usually updated on a yearly basis; this makes a valid instrument of study (Mojaiye, 2009).

Literature Review

This writer in a seminar paper in 1993 describes the study of communication as multi-disciplinary in nature. In the same vein, Severin and Tankard 1992: were of the view that Mass Communication is a skill in the sense that it involves certain fundamental learnable techniques such as focusing a television camera, operating a tape-recorder or taking notes during interview; it is an art in the sense that it involves creative challenges such as writing a script for television programme, developing an aesthetic layout for a magazine and or coming up with a catchy lead for a news story. It a science in the sense that, there are certain principles involved in how communication works that can be verified to make things work better.

This apparently justified why Mass Communication/Communication is diversely located in Nigerian Universities. Again, it could also explain why it is a course run across various

tertiary institutions from the Polytechnic to the University, conventional and specialized. The chameleonic nature of Mass Communication/Communication Arts studies has seriously raised questions about where it should be situated. For example, Nigeria's first school of Communication was/is located in the Faculty of Arts – University of Nigeria, Nsukka while in a place like the University of Lagos, it is situated in the Faculty of the Social Sciences; yet in some others like the Lagos State University, it is a School on its own. These, Nwosu cited in Mojaiye 2009: 219 said had influences the location of other departments of Mass Communication and Communication arts in various Universities in Nigeria. According to him, all the other departments of Mass Communication in Nigerian Universities have either lived the line of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka or that of the University of Lagos.

The issue of location had equally attracted the attention of National Universities Commission, (NUC), the body that regulates university education in Nigeria. Through some of its accreditation teams, recommendations had often been made for the relocation of Mass Communication, Communication Arts to the Faculty of Social Sciences. For example, Bowen University, Iwo, Ajayi Crowther University, Oyo, Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki, Abraka, Delta State University have had to relocate the Department of Mass Communication to the Faculty of Social and Management Sciences.

However, the global trend is to have Communication Studies/Mass Communications emerge as an autonomous discipline in institutions of higher learning where it is not located under any faculty but is established as an independent school as College of its own (Nwosu 2005).

For example, (Southern Illinois University, U.S.A. and others have a school of Communication Studies; while the Lagos State University, The American University of Nigeria, Yola, Adamawa State both have schools of Communication and Information Technology and Communications respectively. In the Cross River State University of Technology, Calabar Communication Studies has a Faculty of its own!

Data Presentation

Nigeria currently has about 102 universities. Others are still being granted licence of operation.

Data 2: Nigerian Universities with Degree Programmes in Mass Communication or Communication Studies 2007/2008 Session

1. Abia State University, Uturu, Abia State.
2. ABTI-American University of Nigeria, Yola, Adamawa. State.
3. Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State.
4. Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Kaduna State.
5. Ajayi Crowther University, Oyo, Oyo State.
6. Anambra State University of Science & Technology, Uli, Anambra State.
7. Babcock University, Ilishan-Remo, Ogun State.
8. Bayero University, Kano, Kano State.
9. Benson Idahosa University, Benin City, Edo State.
10. Benue State University, Makurdi, Benue State.
11. Bingham University, Karu, Nasarawa State.
12. Bowen University, Iwo, Osun State.
13. Caritas University, Enugu, Enugu State.
14. CETEP City University, Yaba, Lagos State.
15. Covenant University, Canaan Land, Ota, Ogun State.
16. Cross River University of Technology, Calabar, Cross River State.
17. Delta State University, Abraka, Delta State.
18. Ebonyi State University, Abakiliki, Ebonyi State.
19. Enugu State University of Science & Technology, Enugu, Enugu State.
20. Igbinedion University, Okada, Edo State.
21. Imo State University, Owerri, Imo State.
22. Joseph Ayo Babalola University, Ikeji-Arakeji, Osun State.
23. Kaduna State University, Kaduna, Kaduna State.
24. Lagos State University, Ojo, Lagos State.
25. Lead City University, Ibadan, Oyo State.
26. Madonna University, Okija, Anambra State.
27. Nasarawa State University, Keffi, Nasarawa State.
28. Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State.
29. No vena University, Ogume, Kwale, Delta State.
30. Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago-Iwoye, Ogun State.
31. Redeemers University, Redemption City, Ogun State.

32. Renaissance University, Ojiagu-Agbani, Enugu, Enugu State.
33. Rivers State University of Science & Technology, Port Harcourt.
34. Tai Solarin University of Education, Ijagun, Ijebu-Ode, Ogun State.
35. University of Benin, Benin City, Edo State.
36. University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Oyo State.
37. University of Jos, Jos, Plateau State.
38. University of Lagos, Akoka, Yaba, Lagos.
39. University of Maiduguri, Maiduguri, Borno State.
40. University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Enugu State.
41. University of Port Harcourt, Port Harcourt, Rivers State.
42. University of Uyo, Uyo, Akwa Ibom State.
43. Wukari Jubilee University, Wukari, Taraba State.

Source: Compiled by the author from:-*Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (2006). V.M.E/DE Brochure: Guidelines for admissions to first degree courses in Nigerian universities and other degree awarding institutions 2007/2008 academic session., 15th ed. Lagos: Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board.*

Data 3: Location of Departments of Mass Communication and Communication Studies in Nigerian Universities

I. Arts/Humanities

(a) B.A. Mass Communication under Faculty/College of Arts/Humanities

1. Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko.
2. Ajayi Crowther University, Oyo.
3. Babcock University, Ilishan-Remo.
4. Bayero University, Kano.
5. Bingham University, Karu.
6. CETEP City University, Lagos.
7. Delta State University, Abraka.
8. Ebonyi State University, Abakiliki.
9. Nasarawa State University, Keffi.
10. Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago-Iwoye.
11. University of Benin, Benin City.

12. University of Jos, Jos.
13. University of Maiduguri, Maiduguri.
14. University of Nigeria. Nsukka.
- (b) **B.A. Communication Arts/Communication Studies under Faculty/College of Arts/Humanities**
15. Abia State University, Uturu (as Linguistics & Communication Arts).
16. University of Ibadan, Ibadan (as Communication & Language Arts).
17. University of Port Harcourt, Port Harcourt (as Linguistics & Communication Studies).
18. University of Uyo, Uyo (as Communication Arts).

I II. Social/Management Sciences

I (a) B.Sc. Mass Communication under Faculty/College of Social/Management Sciences

1. ABTI-American University of Nigeria, Yola, (as Communications).
2. Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.
3. Anambra State University of Science & Technology, Uli.
4. Benue State University, Makurdi.
5. Benson Idahosa University, Benin City.
6. Bowen University, Iwo, (as Human Communication).
7. Covenant University, Ota.
8. Igbinedion University, Okada.
9. Imo State University, Owerri.
10. Joseph Ayo Babalola University, Ikeji-Arakeji, Osun State.
11. Kaduna State University, Kaduna.
12. Lead City University, Ibadan, (as Mass Communication & Media Technology).
13. Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka.
14. Novena University, Ogume, Kwale.
15. Redeemers University, Redemption City.
16. Renaissance University, Ojiagu-Agbani, Enugu.
17. Tai Solarin University of Education, Ijagun, Ijebu-Ode.
18. University of Lagos, Yaba, Lagos.
19. Wukari Jubilee University, Wukari.

(b) B.Sc. Mass Communication under Faculty of Administration

20. Caritas University, Enugu.
21. Cross River University of Technology, Calabar.
22. Enugu State University of Science & Technology, Enugu.
23. Madonna University, Okija.
24. Rivers State University of Science & Technology, Port Harcourt.

(c) **B. Sc. in School/College of its own**

25. Lagos State University, Ojo, Lagos (as School of Communication with B. Sc. in (1) Human Communication, (2) Print Journalism, (3) Public Relations & Advertising, (4) Radio & TV Broadcast, (5) Photojournalism & Cinematography, and (6) Communication Technology).

Source: Compiled by the author from: Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (2006). *U.M.E/DE Brochure: Guidelines for admissions to first degree courses in Nigerian universities and other degree awarding institutions 2007/2008 academic session.* 15th ed. Lagos: Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board.

Discussion

This paper therefore, examines the state of journalism education in a proliferated system like Nigeria. Consequently, it focused on the three Universities especially private universities, located in South-West Nigeria and the University of Ibadan, Nigeria's premier institution. These are:

- (1) Ajayi Crowther University, Oyo, Osun State.
- (2) Bowen University, Iwo, Osun State.
- (3) Joseph Ayo Babalola, University, Ikeji-Arakeji, Osun State.

Ajayi Crowther University, Oyo, Nigeria

Ajayi Crowther University was established about six years ago. It is located in the Old St. Andrews Teacher Training College/College of Education. It is an Anglican University named after Bishop Ajayi Crowther, the translator of the English Language to Yoruba Language.

Ajayi Crowther University currently has 3 Faculties; Humanities/Arts, Social and Management Sciences, and Applied Sciences.

The Department of Communication and Media Studies and Media Studies is currently located in the Faculty of Social and Management Sciences. It offers courses in various aspects of Mass Communication/Communication Studies. The Department has a staff profile of 13 academic staff members. Five of these are either on sabbatical, Associate or Visiting Lecturers from neighbouring Universities – University of Lagos, University of Ibadan.

Amongst the permanent members of staff, only 2 of them hold the Ph.D degree. The NUC stipulates that the minimum degree expected of a university teacher, is the Ph.D. Ironically, the two lecturers obtained their Ph.D degrees in education. However, they were appointed based on their experiences in the media.

Others have diverse background qualifications except four who hold with the B.Sc. and M.Sc. in Mass Communication. These are in various stages of their Ph.D programmes in relevant areas of Journalism Education. The implication of this is that the department has had to look for qualified staff to supplement the existing staff.

(1) **Joseph Ayo Babalola, University**

Established about 4 years ago, JABU is a University owned by the Christ Apostolic Church, Ikeji-Arakeji, Osun State, Nigeria. It runs a Mass Communication Department located in the Faculty of Social and Management sciences. As far as record indicates, there are just 3 permanent academic members of staff to teach various aspects of the curriculum. The department has equally had to rely on qualified academic members of staff from neighbouring institutions to supplement. This has serious implication for quality of programme.

(2) **Bowen University, Iwo, Osun State**

This institution was established about six years ago. It is located in the Old Baptist College premises – a Teacher Training College of Education. It is a Baptist Denomination owned University. It runs a Department of Human Communication initially situated in the Faculty of Arts/Humanities but now has it relocated to the Faculty of Social/Management Sciences. It has less than 10 academic members of staff, with two of them, Professors, on sabbatical leave from neighbouring universities especially, the University of Ibadan. This staff situation has implications of accreditation of courses and quality of training. This writer was severally approached to boost the department's profile especially towards accreditation of programme.

Implication for Journalism Education

(1) Staffing

These institutions under reference have had to poach on staff from neighbouring institutions for an agreed position and fees. In some instance, these staff are hired based on experience as media practitioners. In recruitment, these institutions failed to meet NUC's minimum standard – Ph.D.

(2) Ambivalent Placement of Department and Description

Two thirds of all Nigerian Universities run programme either in Mass Communication, in Communication Arts/Studies. These institutions have been diversely located – Arts/Humanities – Social and Management Sciences. Degrees in this light have also been diversely awarded – B.A./B.Sc.

It was equally discovered that the nomenclature of Mass Communication was significantly common. According to Mojaiye, 2009, 36 of the 43 universities of Mass Communication Arts, two Human Communication, 1 Communication and Language Arts, 2 Human Communication, 1 Simply Communication. As at 2009, there are well over 100 universities in Nigeria. This is made up of 25 Federal Universities, 38 State Universities, 42 Privately owned universities on the location of the Departments, 25 of these have Mass Communication located in Arts/Humanities, 20 in the Social/Management Sciences, 3 run the programme a either school or an independent faculty, five in the Faculty of Administration. The degrees awarded ranged form B.A. to B.Sc. HOWEVER,Cetep University in Lagos has folded up.

(3) Faculties, Development Strategy

As part of the development strategies, the various mass communication departments strive to meet NUC's minimum accreditation standards especially in staffing and equipment. Most of these departments have an appreciable studio meeting a certain degree of the requirements for accreditation. The private institutions have better equipped facilities while an institution like the University of Lagos enjoys privileges from several donor agencies, an institution like U.I. depends largely on subvention from government and money realized from its Post-graduate programmes. Private Universities largely depend on finance sourced from school fees and contributions from mother churches, launches, and patronages from well-meaning

individuals. Consequently, development strategies are usually evolved with consideration to these sources of funding.

Teaching Journalism in the University of Ibadan: Its Implications

Teaching Journalism in the Department of Communication and Language Arts

Teaching journalism in the department was borne out of the rapid growth of the media sector and the dire need for manpower to occupy the vacancies, which the expansion created. As reflected in the abstract, Nigeria has 102 universities, and other degree awarding institutions, recognized by the National Universities Commission. Of this number, 25 are owned by the Federal Government, 30 – State owned, 40 – Privately owned, and 7 other degree awarding institutions or affiliated colleges to existing universities.

In the same vein, about 50 of the universities offer degrees in Mass Communication and Journalism, apart from other institutions, such as Polytechnics, Monotechnics and Colleges of Technology. As reported by Ogundimu, Oyewo and Adegoke 2007: 18, “the Nigerian training programmes have more than doubled in the past four years alone, there is very little publicly available information about these programmes.” Adequate as this number might seem, it leaves a big unanswered question as the quality of the training programmes. This is the main thrust in this paper. Communications and Journalism learning is located in the family of Arts. This is contrary to what operates in other institutions. The Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board presents the following profile in the 2009/2010 brochure. 15 institutions offer Communication/Journalism training in the Faculty of Arts/Humanities, 24 are located in the Faculty of Social/Management Sciences. The issue of domicile is one key area which the overseeing university education has had to grapple with. In recent times, the Department of Mass Communication had to be relocated to the Faculty of Social/Management Sciences in Ajayi Crowther, Bowen University, Iwo, both private institutions, if they have to meet the accreditation procedure. Despite its location in the Faculty of Arts, the Department of Communication and Language Arts is the flagship of Communication/Journalism training in Nigeria. It has a very viable undergraduate programme. It also offers both academic and professional masters degree programmes, the most highly subscribed at present, while its M.Phil/Ph.D programmes are attractions to most lecturers in the sizeable number of universities in Nigeria. According to Ogundimu, Oyewo and Adegoke 2007: 18, “a practical internship programme was required for all undergraduates in the third of their four-year programme, students for the Masters Degree in Communication Arts (MCA) are required to serve a 3 – 6 month internship with a professional media organization... many of the courses ... are primarily skill focused”. This underscores the dual nomenclature of the department. Courses in Communication and Language Arts such as listening, reading, writing and speaking are recommended to be taken by the students. The programmes in the department were accredited only in 2005. This is valid till December 31, 2010. Similarly, the Advertising Practitioners of Nigeria and The Certified Marketing Communication institute equally accredited all the department marketing communication programmes. The journey to the institution becoming a UNESCO’S potential centre of Reference began in 2007. This recognition has put the department into some spot spotlight. It has also succeeded in attracting some

minimal grant into the department. Presently, the department's computer laboratory is being developed to a standard through the assistance from the UNESCO office in Nigeria. For the first-time, the department was in South Africa, Rhodes University in 2007 for the Highway Africa Summit and secondly this year too. This visibility was attainable because of the department's profiler as a UNESCO potential centre of reference. However, noticeable as these landmarks are, there are some constraints/challenges in teaching journalism in the department. These are:

(1) Ambivalent Description of the Department

The name of the department is an amalgam/fusion of two units - Communications and Language Arts. This has made it difficult to properly place the department as a mass communication unit. It equally delayed the accreditation process. Previous accreditation panels had to confess that they were at loss on what benchmark/criteria to adopt in accrediting the department's programmes. According to them, the NUC guideline/benchmark for accreditation is contained in the manual for the accreditation of courses in the Faculty of the Social Sciences. This equally is responsible for the inclusion of skills based courses Such as reading, listening, speaking and writing as compulsory courses over and above journalism based ones.

(2) Improper Definition of Curriculum

Because of the department's ambivalent nature as reflected in its name, it follows also that its curriculum could also be improperly defined. As of present, at the undergraduate level, the department has a total of fifty eight (58) undergraduate courses with eight journalism courses alone. Other courses oscillate between general communication courses to Advertising, PR, Language Skills related courses; (Reading, Listening, Writing and Speaking), the compulsory courses mainly are in they are of Reading, Listening, Writing, and Speaking. Other courses are either required or elective. At the postgraduate level, there are two areas of specialization in Broadcasting/Broadcast Journalism and Print Journalism. The deficiency of the undergraduate level is made up for at the postgraduate level.

However, the department in conjunction with the University of Lagos (UNESCO'S Centre of Excellence and Lagos State Polytechnic, (a UNESCO potential Centre of Reference) has taken steps in adopting as well as adapting UNESCO's model curriculum for implementation. Efforts are being intensified to get the streamlined curriculum approved by the relevant university academic curriculum committees.

(3) Staff and Staffing Situation

The staffing situation in the department has reached a very precarious situation. The department has 12 lecturers currently; five out of them would attain the mandatory 65 years age of retirement. Two out of them are Professors, one Associate Professor; the remaining two are Lecturers Grade 1.

From the interaction with some of the staff members, only 3 had a little experience in journalism either on Radio/TV and/or print. They provide students with some on the job experience in training. This might not be sufficient enough because, journalism does not fall within the area of their specialization. However, to make-up for this obvious lapse, experienced media practitioners – journalists are often engaged to assist the students especially, in the practical aspect of the programme. The university’s poor remuneration has, however, grossly affected the continuity/and sustainability of such an arrangement.

(4) Facilities

Facilities for training in the department are in very deplorable state. This has made training cumbersome. Currently, the department has 4 studios, none of which is open for use due to lack of manpower to support them. For the records, the following studios are:

- (1) Broadcast →
- (2) Print →
- (3) Photo Studio →
- (4) Computer Laboratory →

Equipment valued at millions of Naira are critically lying waste. However, it is gratifying to note that the university administration has through funds provided by the Education Trust Fund, approved the sum of about ₦6m to re-equip the studios. In the same vein, various staff positions have been defrosted and approved for the department to augment its current profile especially in critical areas.

The following are the positions approved: Efforts are been made to fill them up.

- (1) Prof./Associate Prof. – Print Journalism
- (2) Senior Lecturer – Broadcast Journalism
- (3) 2 Technicians – Broadcast Studio
– Composer/Print Studio

(5) Development, Strategy: Funding

The Academic Staff Union of Universities embarked on an indefinite strike to request for improved funding of the education sector in Nigeria. It is strongly pressing for the implementation of the UNESCO’s minimum budgetary standard. This will ensure that universities are well funded to meet acceptable standards as well as facilitate sustainability of programmes.

(6) Links and Recognition

The department critically requires links from, would-be bride seekers especially, the university here in Witwatersrand, UNESCO, OSIWA and KONRAD ADANAUER STIFUNG. Currently, individual lecturers have links as opposed to departmental based link.

Conclusion

Journalism Education Training in Nigeria calls for a general over-haul. The issue of continued proliferation of tertiary institutions, especially, Universities should be done with caution. Further licencing of universities should be on-hold while accreditation of more journalism schools should be stopped outright.

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