

# UNDERSTANDING UNIVERSITY CONCEPTS AND CHALLENGES

**Akinleye Akinpelu**

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**Exceller Open**

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# DEDICATION

I dedicate this book to GOD Almighty for his Grace and Mercy over me and my Family. God has been so good to me, He sees me through to the completion of the work. He enables my long time dream to be a reality.

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# INTRODUCTION

This book is an in-depth analysis of various problems confronting universities all over the world. It also suggests possible solutions to those problems. It contains Five Chapters, the First chapter elicits the meaning of the university as well as goals, objectives and for whom it is established. It emphasizes certain qualities that university provides such as intellectual and personal growth, confidence in facing future Challenges. Chapter two deals with the history of university since the beginning of western education. It focuses attention on the Greek and Roman education and also mentions names of early scholars like Socrates, Plato and Aristotle. It also points out the first recognized university and explains how university got to the American continent.

Chapter three explains the term society and its relationship with the university. It emphasizes that university has many things to offer the society and the university should benefit from society in return. Chapter Four is a very strong analysis of problems that can be Identified in the university system. It suggests detail solutions required for the problems which range from internal one to the external problems such as financial problem, University violence. Chapter Five explains some university terminologies which are compulsory for anybody in the university system to understand. It is also of great advantage for the people outside the university. The book is not solely designed for the people operating within the university system, but rather it is designed for everyone. My interest in university education especially abroad, encouraged me a lot in writing this book and help in getting reliable facts on some universities in various part of the world. I wrote this book during my undergraduate study in 1995 and it remained unpublished work before now. I welcome criticism, comments, opinion and observation, anyone might have on this book, so that it would be helpful to me in my future publications.

# CHAPTER 1

## What is University?

University is a corporate institution of higher education that has the statutory authority to confer a degree.

In general, a university accepts men and women for specific courses of further education after they have achieved a satisfactory level of academic work at secondary school. Admission may be either by selection as a result of public or state examination or by the particular examination of the university or one of the individual colleges. In most of the countries, anyone has the legal right to go to a government owned university if he or she wishes to do so, but today in practice the intake is more selective, that is why some universities are highly selective, seeking students capable of working in a rigorous academic environment.

The first degree course in any art or science subject normally lasts three years or four years after which a person, if successful in the examination may claim to be a graduate of University. There are some courses or disciplines that have a duration of more than four years. One can also earn a university degree, diploma and certificate through various online programmes. University exists not only to teach but also to promote research and those who do sufficiently well in their first degree may stay on or go to another university to take a higher degree. It makes a breakthrough to modernity, without education it is as if enslaving people. University provides an arena for encounter with fundamental moral, social, economic and political issues that shape and affect students' lives, there, students receive intellectual training of the highest quality, a place where teaching and learning are as highly valued as research, they are seen as a natural complement to one another. The combination of classroom work and real-world experience is a powerful source of intellectual and personal growth. It gives an opportunity to learn with a group of intelligent, inquisitive and challenge-seeking peers and the diversity of students' work experiences and educational backgrounds bring a unique mix of talents and insights to each phase of the learning process. It is not only the structural items like Halls of residence, Administrative building that is regarded as a university, rather it is the combination of the students, the lecturers, the non-academic staff, the curriculum and the structural items like Halls of Residence, Administrative Building, lecture room, sporting facilities and all other facilities. Surprisingly, many people ignorantly count much on the university's structure and facilities than anything else, but rather it is the qualities of the lecturers, the content of the curriculum and the qualities of those graduated from such university. Universities were established to respond to the challenges which a diversifying industrial sector and changing community need, each university not to aim in training students for jobs only, but rather to educate, teaching them to seek truth, to think critically, to organize effectively and to communicate clearly and expects them to remain intellectually curious throughout their lives.

They give students every opportunity to gain not only the right academic qualifications but also the qualities and skills in communication, adaptability and team work on which employers place such a high premium and that is why university offers each student series of intellectual adventures that lead to greater confidence and independence. Universities are not only set up historically and essentially as practical institutes but they are set up to educate the mind and to try and train the young on how to find answers to their problems, how to pose right questions and the process of how to find answers to them and the followings are some of the qualities that have been described as the most valuable in the university student, enthusiasm for learning, independence, curiosity, intelligence, the courage to take intellectual risk and initiative. It is not surprising to see outstanding students from throughout the world attending universities with a multi-faceted commitment to international awareness, the challenging academic programs and the opportunity for personal and cultural enrichment. In Nigeria, as in many

other countries, university education has expanded greatly in both its importance and expenditure over the last four decades and that University education has continued to play a unique role in Nigeria's economic development as well as in her social transformation process that is why the successive government, in recognition of this role has accorded education a high priority in the structure of resource allocation.

Emphasis should be more placed on developing the theoretical background and practical application of major functional areas and the universities should seek students who are talented, highly motivated, personally mature and tolerant of divergent views so that distinguished faculty and achievement oriented students combine their efforts under an educational philosophy emphasizing both academic and personal growth.



# CHAPTER 2

## History of University

There is no way, we can discuss the history of university without mentioning the history of Western Education because university is the last stage of Western form of education. A proper starting point for the study of the development of Western Education is in Greece, the Cradle of Civilization and the Greeks invention of writing was one of the great achievements in the history of education. The Greeks, no doubt, formed and polished a Western language and had a great influence on English and other modern languages, therefore became a cause as well as a means in the development of Western Civilization.

It is necessary to study the History and policies of education in the city- states of Athens and Sparta of the Old Greek Empire for their two contrasting systems of education and incidentally, they were the most famous of the Greek city -states. Sparta city made up three classes of people, the Spartan who were citizens, the perioeci who were workers and Helots who were slaves owned by the state. The last two classes had no political right. Only Spartans who were regarded as the citizens received any education, which was geared towards physical vigor, determination, courage, military skill, obedience to the law and constituted authority. The Spartan boys lived with their mothers until the age of seven when they were transferred to the barracks. Between the age of eighteen and twenty years, the Spartan boy was engaged in the practice of professional battle (mock battle) and between the age of twenty to thirty years he sought active service among hostile groups and thereafter required to return to the barracks in readiness for any war that could come and lived in barracks until he was sixty years after which he was free to engage in politics.

Spartan girls, on the other hand received Public athletic training in such sports as jumping throwing the discuss, javelin e.t.c. Girls were organized into troops like the boys by ages, and they danced, sang, marched, but they lived at home, not in barracks.

The objective of Spartan education was determined by the desire for Military efficiency and was centralized and state -controlled. Spartan educational system was relevant to the needs and aspirations of the people of the time. It was an education that aimed at producing patriotic, obedient and militarily efficient citizens Athens unlike Sparta was a democratic state, every citizen had the right to vote and be voted for into elective offices. The democratic constitution of Athens laid the foundation of the western Public education. Although, there was no publicly organized education for girls. Education for girls was mainly on moral and domestic training, given at home by their mothers.

Schooling began for the Athenian boys at the age of seven. The three types of school available to them are, the letter school for reading and writing, the music school for lyric, poetry and lyre, which served to mould the moral character and sentiments of the pupils and lastly the gymnastic school or palaestra.

Teaching was a much more difficult task than today; the teacher had the only manuscript and dictated daily portions to be written by the pupils on a wax tablet for memorization. The Curriculum of the Athenian Schools Consisted of reading, writing, music, poetry, mathematics and gymnastics and the goal of the Athenian education was to produce all round cultured man, who would be physically, mentally and spiritually fit. Boys' Schooling continued until the age of eighteen years and between the age of eighteen and twenty years, they engaged in the national Military service organized in the interest of the state and after the service, he was free to choose a career.

Then, there were foreign professional teachers referred to as the sophists, they charge fees for preparing young Athenians for public life and influenced the thoughts of the Athenian youths at the time and they laid the foundation of higher education in Athens. The sophists made valuable contributions to the development of three disciplines, firstly, they improved on the teaching of grammar, secondly, they

developed the study of prose and lastly, logic the science of reasoning correctly was developed. The three disciplines assisted in promoting and perfecting other new disciplines including medicine, political theory psychology and geography. It is highly relevant to discuss the contributions of the- three well-known Athenian Scholars in the development of Higher Education. They are, Socrates Plato and Aristotle, Socrates (469-399 B.C.) was undoubtedly stimulated by the in sophists, but he deferred from them in important ways. He was an Athenian and did not travel to exhibit his excellence for pay, rather he made serious effort to improve himself and fellow Athenians. There was no record about Socrates's writing probably he never did, the knowledge of him comes to us through the writings of Plato, his disciple. Plato, the greatest pupil of Socrates was born at about 428 B.C. and received the normal education of the Greek boy, learning under Socrates. He devoted his life to reflection, literary publication and travel and he developed his literary skill and philosophical thinking to the full. He founded a School of philosophy which he called the 'Academy' Plato's academy remained a major intellectual centre of the ancient world. He was the first person to develop a systematic theory of education based upon a comprehensive philosophy, emphasizing ground rules from which all educational and philosophical thoughts have developed. Plato's ideas and philosophical thought have marked a significant step in the development of the formal school system and its curriculum. Plato widened the curriculum to include a series of mathematical studies including arithmetic, geometry, astronomy, music and logic. He recognized the practical values of such studies as the basic method of attaining truth as distinct from mere opinion. Aristotle was born at stragira in Greece in 385 B.C. At the age of eighteen years, he traveled to Athens to complete his education and studies at the Academy of Plato. He was strongly influenced by Plato's ideas for he was a member of Plato's Academy for nearly twenty years. Aristotle founded a school of his own known as the 'Lyceum' at Athens. The curriculum of Lyceum covered a broader spectrum than those at Plato's Academy and it included physics, biology, ethics, politics and rhetoric.

On Roman education, it was meant as an initiation into a traditional way of life. The family was the basic and backbone of the earliest Roman education. The education of the Roman child was never standardized, there was no prescribed curriculum nor an impending examination or state interference. The children were made to learn the job of their parents. At the age of 16 years, the home education for the boys would come to an end and later proceed to the next stage which consisted of two distinct types of training, the first was education for public life referred to as 'tirocinimfori' and the second was a military service. After the military service the Roman child was free to choose a career of his choice. The content of old Roman system of education reveals the fact that, it was an education meant for inculcating a rigid system of moral values and the development of the young man's conscience, it was an education for promoting the Roman Ideal which meant a lot of sacrifice, renunciation, absolute devotion to the community and the states. The higher education or Rhetoric school was obtained in one of two ways, either by learning Rhetoric and Literature abroad - in Greece or other Mediterranean cities or by receiving instruction under Greek teachers in Rome. The Rhetoric school required several years to teach the varied knowledge of history literature, philosophy, science and other subjects that would produce an orator. The first University came into being as part of the Renaissance of the twelve century and by the twelve hundred (1200), there were recognized Faculties or corporations that were true Universities. About the middle of the twelfth century, Bologna emerged as a University with a great reputation in civil and canon law, to be followed shortly by Paris, where the teaching of Peter Abelard and others had created a reputation for the theology which by the end of the Century, crystallized into a proper university.

At Paris the study of Aristotle gained ground despite early condemnations and among those associated with it was Thomas Aquinas whose reconciled Christianity and Aristotelianism. Until the fifteenth century the universities as such had no buildings of their own, lectures and meetings were held in Churches or hall hired for the purpose.

In the opening years of the thirteenth century Cambridge arose as a result of a migration from Oxford. The Renaissance and then the Reformation brought great changes in the Universities of Europe. Although many of the early humanists shunned the Universities as the liars of obscurantist schoolmen, secular and classical studies eventually came to have their place there.

The best brains in Europe were assembled to support or refute the new beliefs and most of the great Reformers were graduates of French or German Universities or somebody like Martin Luther taught at one of them.

During the eighteen century European Universities tended to become intellectual backwaters because the brightest talent was drawn towards the salons of the royal and princely courts. On the other hand the same century saw the creation of Universities outside Europe, in North America, Harvard(1636), William and Mary (1693), Yale (1701), and six more were flourishing by United states Independence and twelve more were founded by the end of the eighteen century. Women were first admitted into the University in the nineteen century.

During the twentieth century the main advances have been in the direction of greater specialization and facilities in the science, the acceptance of a wider variety of arts subjects particularly languages and economic the creation of new Universities where group or combined disciplines are more common. In January 1971 the first students were admitted in Britain to the New Open University. This was devised to provide a flexible series of courses that could be studied by the part-time student at home. Teaching methods including correspondence packages were sent to students at Interval, special radio and television programmes, a one-week summer school and a locally-based tutorial and counseling service. Presently, a series of improvement, advances and development has been occurring to the university, especially now that, we are in the computer age. There are numerous online university degrees and programmes.

# CHAPTER 3

## University and the Society

Having gone through the meaning, purpose, roles and goals of university in the first chapter, there is need to discuss the society in relation to the university. Society is a social way of living in a civilized community. It is organization of persons formed with a purpose and it connotes togetherness. Society is synonymous with community; they can be used interchangeably. University community or society can be said, to have two meanings, one, the university itself the totality of people operating within the university campus. Second, the people who are living in the locality of the university or the university's neighbor. It refers to the people living in the university surroundings or the university town. It is very clear that the university has some roles to play in the society and vice versa. The university educates the people in its vicinity and serves as arena for intellectual, social and cultural development. It provides high level manpower for the society as well as rendering its facilities for public use. On the other hand, the society has important roles to play for the university which include provision of fund, materials and adequate supply of students and employees. The roles the society and the university play to each other cannot be over emphasized.

University should be deeply involved in virtually all aspects of its town's life which include sport and leisure, art and recreation, economic development and environmental regeneration and together enjoy a relationship based on mutual respect, reciprocal benefit and a shared confidence in a bright and successful future. Today, more than ever before, university should assume an active role in the life of its community and sees its primary obligation as preparing men and women for lives of increasing work to themselves and to society. They should combine a rich historical tradition with modern science to form a center for higher education and research. University students should be more involved in the community services such as social services, environmental reform and political change and this enables the university campus as an integral part of the town.

At times, the public gets fed-up with the students, because they are always in the streets rioting, looting and engaging in secret cult. These are very common in developing countries. Universities should be a place where we can push the society forward and should produce intelligence, initiative for people with active mind and ready to employ their talent for the benefit of mankind. University has much more to offer the community than its taught course programmes and you do not have to be a student to make use of many of its facilities, libraries, sports facilities, accommodation, theater. There should be regular events such as exhibitions, Conferences, where local people would be allowed to participate and comment on the university work.

Being a university student can be a valuable and enriching experience, they can gain a lot from the high degree of community spirit and involvement. University town should be a very friendly place, where students would be made to feel welcome there, to become a student at the university is to become an integral part of the university town. Finally, educated people should be the vehicle of change in the society and they should not accept leadership that is corrupt, self-serving, brainless and selfish. The government should owe a duty to see that the students are brought up with sound education as well as moral and religious background.

# CHAPTER 4

## *Problems in the University and Solutions*

It is quite certain that Universities all over the world have witnessed problems one time or the other since their inception, the problems are varies which required different kind of approaches in tackling them. The rate of crisis or problem fluctuates within a university and from one university to another, which ranges from mild disaffection to a period of turbulent. University may witness peace today, students unrest tomorrow, strike of the Academic Staff or Non-Academic Staff, the day after tomorrow and the Vice-Chancellor removal the day next. There is a common saying that university of today in some part of the world are not measuring up to the standard as in those days, they are rapidly losing taste. An important problem that is mainly confronting the Universities nowadays, especially in the developing countries is the lack of autonomy. Many universities still depend on the government that established it on decision making, they cannot decide on their own, they rely on government and this is what is crippling the goals and objectives of university.

A very good example is the appointment and removal of the Vice-Chancellor undertaking by some government. This should be discouraged, government should not interfere in it and the task should be delegated to the senate of the university. If a Vice-Chancellor no longer enjoys the confidence of government, he would find it difficult to remain at his post that is why they always dance to the tune of government. The Vice-chancellor cannot also survive if he does not enjoy the confidence of the senate and council. If Universities are to discharge their functions the post of Vice-Chancellor must be one that commands respect, not only within the university but also outside and should be equipped with a wide range of techniques and tools in solving university management problems. In addition some government are fond of poking nose into the general administration and policy making of the university instead of facing their own business and sees to the general administration of the State. They should immediately desist from this act of ignorance and irresponsibility. The in-ability of some Vice-Chancellor to control the people effectively is a serious threat to the University system and it is due to personal weakness of the Vice-Chancellor.

He should be able to initiate action and guide activities in a given direction, maintain such activities and unify efforts towards common goals. It is clear that if the leadership of an organization such as University is incompetent or badly organized one cannot hope for sound policies and even when policies are sound, they cannot put themselves into operation. University therefore, requires capable leaders to direct team members to bring about meaningful and satisfactory results. Another recognized University's disease is inadequate financing. University as an esteemed institution needs sufficient and regular supply of fund for carrying out its activities. This is noticeable immediately the University is being established. Some University founders pretend that they do not know the cost of establishing a University; they enjoy allocating handful of fund for the establishment of University while others established University only for the sake of establishing it without giving proper consideration for its structural development and general funding. This is very common in developing countries where government established Universities without reliable financial support for its development. Government should be ready to finance any project it undertook and should not undertake any project it cannot finance. It is also necessary to point out that, Universities in some part of the world are not given proper maintenance once they were established. There should be regular and sufficient fund, created only for the purpose of maintaining the University's facilities. Another area which lack adequate financing in the University system is Research. Research is an investigation undertaken, in order to discover new facts, get

additional information and more knowledge. University needs constant supply of money for research in order to stand by its objectives and goals. As a result of low incentive for genuine academic and intellectual work, Universities find it difficult to attract research students because it is an expensive thing, particularly applied research. University should be very keen to promote research and scholarly activities as an important part of its overall academic policy. It is highly disappointing that some University Administrators or Vice - Chancellors are guilty of misappropriation of little fund available for running the University. Some of the Vice-Chancellors are fond of defrauding the University's money into their own pocket. This is a disgrace to educational community, It is highly a primitive idea and shows no sign of education but rather it is an animalistic sign. The senate of each University should be empowered to remove such Vice-Chancellor instantly. In view of the growing trend in University financing, there seems to be an evident need for a continuous and critical evaluation of fund allocation and each University with the financial support of the Government and assistance from various Philanthropic societies and individuals should create a foundation or trust fund to assist in embarking on capital project as well as funding research among other things. A University education is not only about studying, but the quality of life that you experience while you are studying is also very important. Residence life is part of each student's experience; there should be a warm social and working environment in which students can study both successfully and enjoyably. University should try to provide facilities and programs that enhance the academic and personal well-being of its students. In-adequate structural facilities and amenities is a serious problem facing some Universities in the developing countries. Some Universities are greatly suffering from inadequate residential halls and lecture rooms for their students. Again physical facilities in terms of buildings, lecture rooms in some Universities are very poor. Some lecturers have no room in which they could sit down and work, where students can come and consult them and where they can keep their library. Many students are living outside the University campus which is not conducive for learning and more so they trek from their various houses to the University and vice versa. That is why University should place a great importance on helping students find accommodation which suits their needs and lifestyle because finding the right place to live is a major concern for students. The lecture room in some Universities are not enough comparable to the number of students and departments of study. It is a pity that some students are receiving lectures under the trees. Some

Universities do not have Auditorium, Theatre that contains large number of people for programmes like play, film show and concert. The inability of some Universities to encourage sport and to provide all sporting facilities for their students is another difficulty that need urgent attention, especially now that sport is becoming a common language throughout the world. Sport helps individuals to explore their physique and demonstrate their talents and skills. All Universities should encourage sport among the student as well as providing fund for sport development. Acute shortage of electricity and water supply also pose serious threat to the students and the lecturers and it is one of the major causes of students' demonstration and destruction in the developing countries. Government should know that electricity and water supply is a necessity and prerequisite for the University population. In addition, some Universities lack good transport system to convey the students within and outside the campus or from campus to campus if such University have two or more campuses, as a result many students have no alternative to trekking. The founder of university should know that, it is incumbent on them to provide a good transportation system for the university. Universities were implored to subsidize boarding in the campus because without good and adequate food; learning cannot take place. The student's Union is the representative body for all students and coordinates and expresses their views on matters relating to their educational, welfare, social and recreational needs. The students' Union building which is the center for almost all Students' activities should be properly maintained and contains facilities like bars, restaurants, lounges, a dance hall, theatre, coffee bars, library, hairdressers, barbing salon and launderette. More emphasis should be placed on students support or personnel services for the ever-increasing University population. The lack of appropriate and adequate provision of these services handled to students' open discontent with university authority and government, the aftermath of which has sometime resulted in large scale disruption of University system and breakdown of law and order in the entire country. There should be focuses on how each University can go about organizing and

administering students support package so that each student can be assisted to develop fully his potentials through effective and efficient use of the resources of his institution. It is necessary that all activities carried out within the University system should be directed towards developing student's total personalities with a view to helping them to build towards a solid future while maximizing their educational pursuit. This development does not end with assisting students to achieve their academic goals alone, but implies the fulfillment and enhancement of the students' unique need, interest and abilities. The students' support services should be organized to revolve around the following, Admission of students into the University, orientation and induction programme with aims at helping the newly admitted students to be familiar with their new environment, Guidance and Counseling services which helps the individual to clear away the entangling and hampering tentacles so that he can be what he really is and contribute more both to self and to his fellow, placement and follow-up services which include maintaining regular contact with the students and representatives of industrial and all other organizations who utilize the products of the institution. Others include, examination and record services; assessing and comparing learning individual and group status and progress in learning, adjustment attitude and interest, financial aid services: administering and allocating any available financial assistance among the students, accommodation, board and health Services: maintaining and coordinating accommodation, board and health services in the campus, they are basic necessities of life, sports and co-curricular services: organizing and coordinating sports and other co-curricular activities among students in the university campus.

There is a vivid evidence that lack of understanding between the students and university authority has caused serious problem in the university system and a number of reasons have been responsible for it, which include arbitrary increment in tuition fees, registration fee and accommodation fee. The University authority should be lenient, modest and considerate when levying the students. Restrictive laws is another serious issue that is threatening University peace. Some universities are notorious for making series of these restrictive laws which students regarded as cheating and baseless e.g. reducing visiting time and the movement of male students into the female halls and vice versa. The university authority should operate an open structure of governance system and invite students' participation which serves as an outlet for students' view points and desire for involvement. Again universities are advised to be very cautioned regarding this issue. On many occasion students have been seen, engaging in a rivalry with university authority with the accusation of making inconsiderate policies. The university authority should know that students must be informed whenever they want to introduce new law and policy. The prevailing issue of examination leakage, students' failure and examination malpractice should not be neglected. Basically examination leakage is possible if there is no proper security of question paper by academic and non-academic staff, when there is loop-hole within them. Some of these staff may intentionally reveal the question to their admirer among the students. This act can only be stopped by giving maximum security for the examination questions and that any staff violating the rule should be instantly dismissed. Laziness is a major cause of students' failure and examination malpractice. Some university students entirely forget their goal on the campus, instead of facing their studies squarely, they turn to something else and definitely they fail. Instead of attending lectures and involving in other academic activities, they spend a lot of unprofitable hours daily on the internet and social media. Some of these unserious students may later resort to cheating in the examination and when they are caught, they are either suspended expelled or withdrawn from the University, disgracing not only themselves, but also their family. It is highly disappointing to learn that some male lecturers are indulging in an unhealthy relationship with female students, harassing them sexually with a threat to fail them in the examination if she refused. It is very rampant nowadays and should be discouraged. This is an odd and primitive practice and any lecturer caught indulging in it should be instantly dismissed. Universities should avoid discrimination, they should be committed to equal opportunity and treatment in all aspects of it relations with faculties, students and staff members without regard to race, color, national and ethnic origin, sex, marital status, religion, age or handicap. They should make it as a matter of principle to admit men and women from various racial and religious backgrounds since the inception and insist that all organizations on campus should be open to everyone

and should not allow fraternities or sororities. The transition from secondary school to the university is a dramatic experience for most students and the university authority must organize a personal tutor system with the objective of developing a close relationship between individual students and lecturers, so that they will be a source of support, advice and guidance for the students during their period in the university. Students who have personal problems, not easily solved alone, should cultivate the habit of consulting the counselor in his office and believe that the problem will be handled professionally, in confidence and with understanding. Here, students will not be Psycho-analyzed or told what to do, but rather help them see things more clearly and offer guidance on possible options. The careers service should be encouraged in the universities, its assists students to make arrangements for employment or further study on completion of their studies. The university authority should pay close attention to welfare of each individual student, through its academic and advising systems. A close relationship with a valued Professor can significantly influence a student's intellectual life, in other words, students will do much better work when having personal rapport with professors. In addition, Vice-Chancellor should be able to relate well to students, and that he must not see students as antagonists or see students essentially as irresponsible and vandals. If students were the leaders of tomorrow, they should be allowed to participate in politics at their own level, form their own parties and embark on campus campaigns to sell their programmes to their colleagues. They should also be free to seek, discover, publish and teach the truth as they see it; have a right for free speech and have the right to protest and demonstrate without violence for any cause of interest to the generality of students. University students should be involved in decision-making process and in institutional policy planning and implementation; on matters directly affecting them, will help to establish a free and happy relationship on campus. Students' involvement in decision-making process makes their education to be more meaningful and also helps to check unwanted suspicious, rumors and guesses among the students' groups, and thus could somehow limit students' antagonism and protest against constituted authority. It is a must that rivalry must be among the students in the University and it has been accounting for serious problems in the campus. Many reasons have been given for the rivalry in the campus, which shall be discussed. First and foremost is the student politics. Campus politics in some Universities is as turbulent as a country's politics where candidate sees his opponent or his running mate as a real enemy. This unfortunate idea should be totally dismissed in campus politics, after all students are leaders of tomorrow, and they should not emulate disgraceful practice of Politicians. The issue of secret cult is so rampant in Universities nowadays and has been threatening the lives of innocent students. Each University authority should work out modalities and strategy of curbing this odd practice, so that University campus will be safe and for promoting peace and stability. Other important causes of rivalry among the students include provocation, disaffection and lack of understanding. Some students are so talented in provoking their colleague to the point of engaging in a brawl. Many University students hate one another with or without a good reason and that, there is lack of understanding among University students. Students are advised to be patient, love and understand one another so that peace and tranquility would prevail in the campus. Again, sexual harassment is now common in some Universities, where male students harass their female counterparts sexually. This is a highly primitive idea and should be discouraged in educational arena. Students are also advised to desist from taking hard drugs, it is very dangerous to their health. The issue of covetousness, stealing and lavish display of wealth should not be left out, they go in the same direction, in fact they are one of the major causes of problem among the students in the University campus. Some people are brought up with the habit of desire things that belong to others, which will definitely lead them into stealing of others properties. On the other hand, many well-to-do students are fond of lavish display of their wealth in presence of the poor, covetous or theft, among the students and if any chance is open for them, they will not hesitate to strike. Some wealthy male students lavishly display their wealth in order to attract the attention of female student and befriending them. The act of stealing and covetous should be discouraged in the University campus, each student should be satisfied with himself and the wealthy students should learn how to be modest in spending, especially in public places and every student should be keeping their things properly. In developed countries, students union is efficient, effective and dependable, they organize many things including the entire dining facilities of their halls with the help of the University



authority, most of the things in halls is being done by the students union and they run it well. Presently, such students union in developing countries takes up such responsibilities are coming up, but when it comes to national issues, they are the most vocal part of the society. The students union could as well takes up responsibility as their counterpart in developed countries, but the way government being financed the universities curtailing them to be irresponsible. This is the main reason why most University students in developing countries result to confrontation instead of consultation. University students all over the world should learn how to communicate and have a dialogue and not revert to violent measures. University students should display a sense of maturity and fairness 'about their individual and collective decision and avoid any strike which involve violence. They should also be allowed to form themselves into organization which will look after their own interest, but the students themselves must justify the existence of that organization and must work for its support. Rivalry between Academic and Non-Academic staff is another serious problem in the University community especially in Nigeria and other places. They are jealous of each other. Each of them wants to receive more benefit than the other in terms of salaries, Housing allowances. car loans and conditions of services. There was a case where non-academic staff of a University demanding the cancellation of Research allowance granting to academic staff or in alternative such allowance should also be given to them in another name. The Academic and non-academic staff of every University should know that, progress cannot be accomplished in a place where peace is absent and should try to work harmoniously for the success of the University and to report any of their grievances to the appropriate quarters in a matured way. The morale of the Academic staff of Universities in some part of the world is very low, they appeared to have lost interest in the job, paying more attention to outside commitments. As a result of insufficient salary, Universities now are losing some good people to private industries, especially in Professional areas, such as Engineering, Architecture, Accountancy, Management, Law and Medicine where there is great remuneration. Moreover, the position of lecturer, Professor should be taken into account, in terms of conditions they work, they must be given self respect, self-esteem as Professional people. The university students and Government of various countries have one time or the other engaged in serious confrontation which resulted to loss of millions of lives and destruction of properties. Many reasons have been responsible for confrontation between the government and the students which includes arbitrary sharp -increment in tuition and other fees by the government. Government in some countries are delighted in increasing tuition and other fees anyhow without giving proper consideration to their subjects. In addition students are always ready to attack bad and inconsiderate policy and plan of government on the education or university and on the nation entirely. Students see themselves as the useful instrument that can easily compel the government to change its proposed plans and policy. It was very unfortunate to see how Chinese government killed millions of Chinese students, who were staging a peaceful demonstration sometimes ago in the late eighties. It was reported that these harmless students were killed, because of their refusal to go back to their universities. Definitely, the man who commanded the killings contravened the fundamental human right of the United Nations and should not go away unpunished either sooner or later. Basically, if universities all over the world are to be freed from all the problems mentioned above, the principle of democracy must prevail in such country where the university is located.

Democracy should be a doctrine and practice of every country because it promotes world peace or tranquility, stability as well as development. Finally, students should be rightfully concerned about meeting the challenge of broad opportunities in their working lives and aspire to obtain the best education possible. They should also be aware that independent study is the quintessence of teaching, although it is a unique opportunity for professors and students to work together on developing ideas. Students should develop one-on-one relationships with faculty in collaborating on research or artistic projects, sometimes co-authoring articles for national scholarly journals and should count knowledge as a partner.

# CHAPTER 5

## University Concept

- **Bachelor's Degree**

It is otherwise known as the first degree, it is the first stage of the university's degree. It is universal, except in a few places like Norway where it is known as "Cand. mag" a lower degree of about 4 years and "Cand. Philol, Cand. Paed, Cand. Scientist" a higher degree of about two years after the lower degree.

- **Chancellor**

This is a ceremonial head of a university on special occasions and programmes e.g. Graduation and Matriculation ceremonies. It is granted to important personalities and dignitaries like King, Queen etc.

- **College**

School for higher or Professional education and body of teachers and students forming part of a university. In other words, it is a combination of two or more faculties in a particular university. It is usually head by a Provost.

- **Course Adviser**

This is the academic staff that guides students on the courses to be taken and other academic issues that arise.

- **Dean**

The Dean is the head of a Faculty in the University and usually selected from departments of studies in the faculty for a given period of time.

- **Deputy Vice-Chancellor**

Is the next in rank to the Vice-Chancellor as the assistant and subordinate chief executive of the University. Deputy Vice-chancellor is selected among the academic staff and has control in Academic and Non-academic affairs.

- **Doctorate Degree**

It is the highest University degree and usually taking a minimum period of three years to complete after obtaining master's degree.

- **Excursion**

Journey by a number of students together with or without the lecturer for pleasure or for practical experience.

- **Faculty**

It is group of related departments of studies in the University and it is head by the Dean. In some cases Faculty is refer to as college e.g. College of Medicine.

- **Graduate**

Person who holds a university degree especially first or bachelor's degree.

- **Graduation**

It is a University ceremony at which degrees are conferred.

- **Group Work**

It provides opportunities for students to work in a small group on a task assigned to them or sometimes, chosen by the group itself. The task may range from a short discussion to a lengthy project and presentation. Students would be able to learn from others and develop important social and interpersonal skills as well as experiencing decision making, problem solving, leadership and working with others and all other skills that are valuable in later life.

- **Head Of Department**

It is the leader of each and every department of studies in the university.

- **Inaugural Lecture**

It is an occasion of significance in an academic staff member's career at the university. It is once in a lifetime public presentation of a paper, on a particular topic by a university professor.

- **Induction**

It is the same thing with orientation, Induction provides general knowledge for future activities to the newly admitted students into the university.

- **Lecture**

It is the most traditional form of teaching in higher education, lecturer gives information to a large number of students. If notes are not provided students listen carefully and make notes of the important point.

- **Lecturer**

It means a university Teacher.

- **Long Essay**

This is an assignment given to University students by their lecturer on a particular topic.

- **Master's Degree**

This is a Second University degree and usually taking a minimum period of eighteen months to complete.

- **Matriculation**

It is an official ceremony of admitting new students into the University.

- **Open Day**

This is a period where university welcomes the visitor into the campus to discover some fact about the university. This is very common in universities in United State of America, where the would-be students would be allowed into the university and get information.

- **Orientation**

It aims at helping the newly admitted students to be familiar with their new environment by exposing them to some of things to be expected and how to go about settling down to the task ahead; thus reducing to the barest minimum the problems of transition into the university system.

- **Post Graduate**

University studies after the first degree e.g. Master's degree and Doctorate degree. The post graduate studies in Sweden include a Licentiate degree, a two-year study after first degree and the holder would do another two years for Doctorate degree.

- **Private Study**

It includes reading, note taking, researching, writing and revising.

- **Pro Chancellor**

This is a ceremonial post in the university and it is normally granted to important personalities and dignitaries. It is next in rank to the Chancellor in performing ceremonial functions in the university.

- **Professor**

University teacher of the highest grade, holding a chair of some branch of learning. It is usually conferred to University teacher, who has spent a minimum period of ten years lecturing and researching after obtaining Doctorate Degree.

- **Project**

It is a very serious academic work involving research on a particular or given topic, usually undertaken by the final year or graduating students as a requirement for the completion of their studies.

- **Provost**

Head of a College or group of Faculties in a University.

- **Reader**

University teacher of a rank immediately below a professor and it is also a post granted to the lecturer and the professor in performing public functions concerning the University.

- **Registrar**

The administrative Head of a University.

- **Research**

It is an investigation undertaken, in order to discover new facts, get additional information and more knowledge.

- **Sabbatical**

A year of freedom from routine duties granted to some University teachers to enable them to travel or undertake special studies. It is known as sabbatical leave.

- **Scholarship**

Payment of money in form of grant to the students so that he may continue his studies. This is normally a yearly basis.

- **Semester**

This is each of the two divisions of an academic year.

- **Seminar**

Seminar is a discussion group with the tutor and a group of students, possibly up to 15-20.

This discussion could be about a previous lecture or a specific topic, Seminar is more informal than lecture and allow students to become more involved. Students can ask questions, if they want clarifications and try to make contribution. It helps not only in studies, but also the personal development and confidence. Preparation and reading before hand is very helpful.

- **Senate**

Governing council of some Universities.

- **Session**

An academic year

- **Suspension**

Is a penalty involves delaying or stopping academic studies of a student who violate rules and regulation.

- **Term Paper**

It is an assignment on a particular topic given to the students by the lecturer as part of the semester assessment or grade point and must be type written.

- **Tutorial**

This is smaller group, sometimes just a student and the tutor. Tutorial allows the tutor to discuss the work in depth and give students the opportunity to ask questions and develop their understanding of the subject Preparation, if appropriate will allow students to get maximum benefit from the tutorial.

- **Under Graduate**

First- degree student at the University.

- **Vice Chancellor**

This is the Chief executive or executive head of the University. In United States of America, it is known as President. The Vice Chancellor controls the academic and non-academic staff and sees to the general administration or management of the University. Vice Chancellor is selected among the academic staff of the University or from other University.

- **Visitor**

This is the Governor of the State or the President of the Country that own such university. However, if such university is private university, the Visitor is the founder of the university or somebody else designated to do so.

- **Withdrawal**

It is a severe penalty which involves sending out a student completely from the university as a result of committing an offence.

This book is an in-depth analysis of various problems confronting universities all over the world. It also suggests possible Solutions to those problems. It contains five chapters, the first chapter elicits the meaning of the university as well as goals, objectives and for whom its established. It emphasizes certain qualities that university provides such as intellectual and personal growth, confidence in facing future challenges. Chapter two deals with history of university since the beginning of western education. It focuses attention on the Greek and Roman education and also mentions names of early scholars like Socrates, Plato and Aristotle. Its also points out to the first recognized university and explains how university got to the American continent. Chapter three explains the term 'society' and its relationship with the university. It emphasizes that university has many things to offer to the society and the university should benefit from the society in return. Chapter Four is a strong analysis of the problems that can be identified in the university system. The final chapter explains some university terminologies which are compulsory for anybody in the university system to understand. The book is not solely designed for people operating within the university system. Therefore, it should be a great read for people outside university as well.



Akinleye Akinpelu was born at Ibadan, Nigeria in 1969 and had his secondary school education at Oke-Ado High School, Ibadan. He proceeded to Ogun State Polytechnic College, Nigeria in 1989 for a two-year National Diploma in Mass Communication and later spent a year working for African Newspaper of Nigeria Plc, the Publisher of the Tribune titles, where he served at the News Desk and Art and Culture Desk. He has a Bachelor of Science in Education B.SC (ED) in Guidance counseling at the Ogun state University Ago-Iwoye now Olabisi Onabanjo University Ago-Iwoye Nigeria. He started his teaching career with the Nasarawa State Teachers Service commission in January 2000 and later transferred his service to Oyo State Teaching Service Commission.



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