

AN EXAMINATION OF UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION (UBE) POLICY IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The paper attempts an examination of the Universal Basic Education (UBE) policy in Nigeria. It argues that Universal Basic Education in Nigeria is not new being traced from as early as 1955 from the Universal Primary Education Scheme. The paper argues further that the purpose of the programme which was launched on 30th September 1999 by President Olusegun Obasanjo was to provide free and compulsory education for children in the primary and junior secondary schools in the country. An examination of UBE Policy shows that a number of problems have bedeviled the policy considering its main thrust and specific objectives. It was recommended among other things, that government should increase the budgetary allocation to the education sector in regard to the recommendation of UNESCO that 26% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) should be allocated to the sector. Also, government at all levels should increase the funding of education especially the UBE programme.

Keywords: Universal Basic Education Policy, Objectives of UBE, Primary School, Junior Secondary School.