

The Role of International Collaborative Institutions on Tertiary Education. A Critical Review

By

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Abstract: This paper examined the role of collaborative international institutions on tertiary education. It is obvious that for tertiary institutions to attain global standards, they have to collaborate internationally. The paper also seeks to identify international collaborative institutions in various parts of the world. It also identifies organizations and agents that fund Tertiary Education namely, USAID UNESCO UNICEF etc. The paper also highlighted the roles of International Collaborative Institution, among which are: offering, international experiences including studying abroad and staff exchanges. It also looked at the principles of effective collaboration which also include clarifying purposes and goals and respecting social and academic cultures etc. it went further to outline the strategies that make collaboration more effective, one of them is understanding the need for collaboration. Finally, this paper was able to state the challenges of international collaboration on higher education as language barrier and difficulty in making contacts.

Keywords: Tertiary Education, International, Collaborative Institution, Global Standard.

INTRODUCTION

Education is widely accepted as a major instrument for promoting socioeconomic, political and cultural development in Nigeria (Tolutope 2021). It is also a human right and a cornerstone of poverty reduction, democracy and equality. Tertiary Education also known as Higher Education is defined by the National Policy on Education (2013) as all formal post-secondary education including public and private universities colleges, technical training institutes and vocational schools. Tertiary education is instrumental in fostering growth, reducing poverty and boosting shared prosperity. Tertiary institution educates future leaders and develop the high-level technical capacities that underpin economic growth and development (Odukunle, 2001). Collaborative means to work jointly with others or together especially in an intellectual endeavor. Collaborative institution means a university institution, research council or to the entity working with the host institution in connection with the project. International collaboration means any work with persons of foreign nationals. International Collaboration started booming in the last 30 years. It is a reaction to different countries becoming more and more increasingly

connected with each other, thanks to technology and transport innovation. Its benefit includes molding students who are now more open minded in accessing knowledge and different cultural learning experiences.

International academic collaboration plays an important role in the creation of such models and prepares educational systems to act effectively in foreign. Globalization is increasingly affection the context of higher education. governments, academic system and subdivisions are adopting internationalization to cope with globalization. (Altback, 2005).

Egron-polka (2015) considers Internationalization as a road map to quality, a key to competitiveness, and part of the race for talent. According to Altback and Knights (2007) the motivation to international collaboration enhances the capacity for research, knowledge, cultural understanding competitiveness, prestige and strategic alliance. Marginson (2004) distinguishes between globalization and internationalization (international collaboration), thus globalization refers to the spreads of cross-national and worldwide phenomena, including their growing influence

on local, regional and national levels. In contrast, internationalization refers to the relations between nations as discrete entities without implying any necessary change in those nations themselves or in the structuring of their relationship. Higher education is becoming more collaborative. These goals of education can be fully attained if quality delivery is rendered in higher education in Nigeria. Higher education of good quality is critical for Nigeria to become globally competitive (Tolutope 2021).

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIVE INSTITUTIONS

Research has shown that there are over Eighty (80) Collaborative Institution all over the world. Twenty-six (26) in USA Eight (8) in Canada, One (1) in Brasil, Four (4) in Asia, Three (3) in Taiwan, China, Two (2) in Japan, Three (3) in republic of Korea. Three (3) in Singapore, One (1) in Thailand, Six (6) in Australia, One (1) in New Zealand, Eight (8) in Europe, Three (3) in Nietherlands, Five (5) in Germany, Three (3) in France, Two (2) in Switzerland., Two (2) in Spain, Two (2) in Italy, One (1) in Belgium, One (1) in Isreal, One (1) in Africa specifically South Africa. Some of the schools are listed below:

USA: MIT: Sloan School of Management

Washington University in St.louis olin School of business

Canada: The Univeristy of Toronto Rotman

Brazil: School of Business administration of Sao paulio edacn collaborative institution

Asia: City university of Hong Kong Faculty of Business

Tawan, China: Taiwan University college of management

Japan: Keio Business School

Republic of Korea: Seoul National University College of Business Administration

Singapore: The National University of Singapore

Thailand: Thammasat Business School

Oceania: Maccquarie University of Australia

New Zealand: University of Auckland

Europe: Stockholm University School of Business

Uk: Imperial College Business School

Demark: Copenhagen Business School

The Netherlands: Erasmus University Rotterdam School of Management

Germany: Munch Business School

Austria: The university of Salzburg

France: Crenaoble Ecole de management

Switzerland: The University of St Gallea

Spain: Instituto de Empresa (IE) Business School

Italy: Luiss Guido Carli University

Belgium: University libre de Bruxelles solvay Business School

Isreal: Graduate School of Business Administration

Africa: University of Stellenbosch Business school.

SOME INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES, ORGANISATONS AND ASSOCIATIONS THAT FUND TERTIARY EDUCATION

UNESCO: (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural organization). UNESCO provides technical advice and support to develop the institutional and human capacity of countries to achieve their educational goals. This includes training of education practitioners and officers in multiple fields, including educational planning, curriculum design, data collection and distance learning. UNESCO in the field of education particularly tries to spread the spirit of fundamental education in the world. It also tries to raise the standard of education in all the member countries it also develops knowledge and understanding among the various nations of the world.

USAID: (United State Agency for International Development. USAID has a long tradition of working with university to harness their intellectual, research, community engagement and capacity building. It collaborates with the government of Nigeria to strengthen education systems at the state and local government levels. It has also trained more than 300,000 education officials, administrators and teachers. USAID works with universities in the host-countries. It usually invests in a variety of higher education activities across sectors to improve the quality contributions and accessibility of higher education. It supports higher education programs. It also improves the quality of higher education and research in support of countries development priorities. Finally, it increases access to higher education and support tertiary education institutions in promoting youth, employment, skill development and work force.

UNICEF: (United Nations International Children Education Fund) UNICEF works to provide quality learning opportunity that prepare children for primary and secondary education which is the bedrock for tertiary education. It supports cost effective models for early learning and pre-primary education with a focus on children with disabilities. It also ensures that adolescents acquire lifelong education to build better future for themselves. Sustainable development goals 4 is about quality education and is among the 17 sustainable development goals established by the united nations in September 2015.

JICA: (Japan International Cooperative Agency) JICA has played a great role in tertiary education. Japan's strengths are utilized in human resources development cooperation. JICA worked further with Japanese universities for the improvement of education in developing countries. It has enhanced training

management in vocational and technical institute. It has contributed to industrial technology education. It has also played a great role in practical human resource development in electrical electronic engineering. JICA has been strengthening effective teaching words inclusive education and has ensured capacity development for education policy, formation and analysis for learning improvement.

Bill and Melinda gates foundation: This foundation works to insure equitable opportunity for post-secondary students by supporting innovation that provides courses and programs that meet their needs and strong reliable pathways to a certificate or degree that has value, institutional transformation that focuses on them their educational paths, data etc.

They also support colleges and universities that are committed to transformation-making significant and lasting change to dramatically improve student outcomes and climate race ethnicity and income as predictors of students' success. Finally, they also work with college and university leaders, innovators, policy makers, state and local leaders to ask the hard questions and advocates for evidence backed changes in policy and practice to boost to students' success. Other foundations are Money Gram International Foundations, Cocacola African Foundation, Jacobs Foundation Research Fellowship Program, Captain Planet Foundation, Dubai cares etc.

Lastly, Ministry of foreign affairs support the higher education which promotes the know-how and capacity of higher education institution.

THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIVE INSTITUTIONS

1. University partnership provides a huge amount of opportunities for students and staff alike
2. They offer research opportunities and cultural awareness
3. They offer international experiences including study abroad programs and staff exchanges.
4. International scientific collaboration in higher institution also has economic benefits for all involved. When scientist form different countries work together on projects, they can share ideas and resources that help them each advance their own research agenda and make valuable contribution to society as a whole.
5. Collaboration in a global context provides students and teachers a great opportunity to learn about the world beyond their classroom and develop skills essential to student's future success such as communication skills and knowledge and awareness of the wider world.
6. Collaborations can provide a much needed boost and quickly in academic and co-curricular offerings for institutions.

7. They ensure a mutually beneficial relationship; International universities form different parts of the globe collaborate with one another to enjoy mutually exclusive relationship.

8. The practice of internationalization fosters an immersive and inclusive academic environment. It goes beyond recognizing an international student culture. It understands, embraces and integrates diverse cultures into the educational experience.

9. In the midst of pandemic, higher education practice internationalization by providing students of home with access to education from advanced countries.

10. The United Nations Educational, scientific and cultural organization has stated that "Education transforms lives, critical thinking and logical reasoning but they are also well prepared and well equipped to engage with other people and businesses from other countries, whenever they may be and this opens them to more opportunities".

11. International collaboration also allows a foreign student in a new country to settle in much faster, making education process more seamless and turning learning into a much more enjoyable experience. For higher education institutions, the roles of international collaboration in today's education system cannot be overstated. Some of its positive aspects are:

IMPROVED ACADEMIC QUALITY

Educational institution maintains standard practice and this standard of practice and these standards vary from one country to another. With international collaboration, higher education institutions are exposed to different practices and may adopt a few practices which could help them improve. Also these institutions can share their good practices to other higher education institutions in need of improvement and guidance. Higher education institutions can better explore these through strategic partnerships.

INTERNATIONALLY ORIENT STUDENTS AND STAFF

It's long been understood that competition brings out the best in business. In a similar context, students and staff who have been exposed to international standards and practices should inspire their classmates and colleagues to learn and achieve more when students and staff are to globally competitive educational training, this helps towards building a stronger global community.

NATIONAL INTERNATIOANAL CITIZENSHIP FOR STUDENTS

Migration is more of often than not, one of the key reasons why students choose to study abroad, with the

internationalization of higher educational institutions, students are more prepared to move into new countries.

POTENTIAL FOR INCREASED INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ENROLLMENT

Higher Education institutions enjoy the word of mouth recommendations from international students who their experiences with their friends and family back in their home countries, may eventually lead to more International students enrollment.

REVENUE GENERATION BRAIN GAIN

Internationalization grades a higher education institutions way of operating. As the education institutions improves, it attracts the brightest of minds and talents from all over the world. This leads to more revenue not only for the schools but also for the business in the communities they belong to or with schools attracting bright minds regardless of nationality, expects them to eventually influence the community sector either during internship or post-graduation. For higher education institutions, their staff, students, and their communities, International Collaboration brings life-changing benefits as it connects them with the global environment. It goes beyond recognizing international student's culture.

THE PRINCIPLES OF EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

Stewart (2015) summarized the principles of effective international collaboration in the following 10 points:

1. Clarifying purpose and goals.
2. Establishing the right and responsibilities of partners and responsibilities of partners.
3. Respecting social and academic cultures
4. Developing roles and responsibilities of university leaders, faculty, staff and students.
5. Building an institutional culture that supports international collaboration.
6. Considering ethical standard.
7. Ensuring that the capacity exist to deliver on the commitment made to all stakeholders.
8. Providing support to faculty and students throughout their international experience.
9. Ensuring the existence of a data base that documents past and current international collaboration agreement.
10. Developing the capacity to measure benefits and outcomes.

Therefore, effective collaboration depends on the relationship of the collaborating partners that require continued negotiations among them as long as the

collaboration lasts. Effective contacts with international institutions is built on trust and requires time to achieve.

STRATEGIES THAT MAKE COLLABORATIONS MORE EFFECTIVE

- As student enrollment is declining higher education institutions need to partner with others to improve their finance and their value proposition.
- Institution size and certain risks factors determine purpose (survival or new opportunities) and plan (specific areas of collaboration).
- A key to success is for internal stakeholders to understand the need, and buy into the plan before presenting possible partner(s) and potential model deals.

Questions to ask as you begin to identify areas where partnerships might be possible.

1. What type of collaboration is most useful for your institution?
2. To what extent is collaboration necessary to stay financially viable, is there an opportunity improve value to students or cut cost.
3. What administrative service and academic departments would benefit most from collaboration and how deep should those collaborators go?

CHALLENGES OF INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIVE INSTITUTIONS

First there are often language barriers across collaborators from different countries. Impaired communications can lead to misunderstandings, create confusion and even drive wedge between students and staff. A thematic analysis of the interviews suggested that the major-sources of challenges to the universities international collaborations efforts are difficulties in making contacts with international institutors, language barriers faculty resistance to international partnership, cross cultural issues etc. A lack of proficiency in English has discouraged and delayed efforts to establish effective communication with international institutions or partners.

Fourteen (14) out of twenty-seven (27) participants admitted that a lack of knowledge of English language was a crucial factor that discouraged the initiation of successful contact with international institutions. Thirteen (13) participants needed help to research the web and find a program that was compatible with their department. Three (3) participants requested that faculty with an English specialty assist them in making contact. A participant indicated that her department had to hire English specialty to assist them in making contact. Another participant indicated that her department had to hire English language translators to assist in the communication process. In two cases the success of the ongoing negotiations with foreign institution was

attributed to these negotiation being conducted in Arabic language. As earlier stated difficulties in making contact with international institutions is a big challenge at its early initiating stages. It has been a tiresome on some-what humiliating process for most students and staff to make contact with foreign universities.

CONCLUSION

The role of International Collaborative institutions cannot be overemphasized. It has brought some many countries together academically to compete and meet up with the global standard. International Collaborative Institutions empowers students, staff and institutions with learning from advanced intuitions abroad. Collaboration has provided a much needed boost and quickly in academic and co-curricular offerings for institutions. By emphasizing collaboration, we can define this new era of higher education as one of the fastest academic growth through international cooperation.

RECOMMENDATION

1. The statistics obtained shows that many countries are not part of International Collaborative Institutions, more countries should participate actively.
 2. Any country that internationalizes academically should learn English language for easy communication.
 3. International collaborative institutions should always advertise their offers.
 4. Opportunity should also be given to the less privilege to partake in the program by getting their sponsors through the various agencies.
 5. Institutions should improve on making their contacts easily accessible.
 6. More awareness should be created on what students and staff stand to benefit on international collaboration.
 7. Students should be exposed to culture and practices of other countries for easy adaptation.
- Introduction according to national policy on Education (FGN ZOB) Higher Education is the post-secondary section of the education system which is given by universities, polytechnics, and colleges of technology including courses as are given by the colleges of

education, advanced teachers training colleges, correspondences, colleges and such institutions.

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