

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL 2019 REPORT ON CURRICULAR STRUCTURES AND TEACHING MODES IN ADULT/LIFELONG EDUCATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, NIGERIA BY ODEWOLE OLADUNNI

The University of Lagos, Nigeria, hosted the International Summer School 2019 on Curricular Structures and Teaching Modes in Adult/Lifelong Education from 5th – 16th of August 2019 in close co-operation with the Julius Maximilian Universitat, Wurzburg; Bayero University Kano; and Obafemi Awolowo University Ile-Ife, Nigeria. The International Summer School 2019 held at the University of Lagos, Nigeria, achieved its aim of international dialogue on Academic adult education as it through the two weeks unpacked a complex and open framework for conceptualising and researching the Curricular Structures and Teaching Modes in Adult/Lifelong Education in Nigeria and Germany; and thus, giving us hindsight into what obtains in other parts of the world. And, at the same time, brought together a community of young researchers of different international and intercultural experiences to reach a shared understanding.

The school started with an opening programme with thirty (30) participants in all in attendance alongside all the undergraduate and post graduate students of the University of Lagos Department of Adult Education and Lifelong Learning. The representative of the University's



Vice Chancellor, the Dean of the Faculty of Education, A Professor of Law from the University's Faculty of Law and some other lecturers of the University's Department of Adult education were also present. The key note address was given by Professor Kola Kazeem, a Professor of Adult Education at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. He is also the Provost of the Osun State

College of Education, Ilesa, Nigeria and the President of the Nigerian National Council for Adult Education (NNCAE). The key note address focused on a paradigm shift in the Curricular Structures and Teaching Modes in Academic Adult/Lifelong Education. As he gave the keynote address, one could not resist the urge of a free mental transport away from the mere listening and jotting given his intellectual journey across multiple cultural landscapes spiced with a good knowledge of numerous domains of adult education best practice and market needs. There were three other presenters during the two weeks, each of which were from the three partner institutions, Obafemi Awolowo University Ile-Ife, Bayero University Kano, and University of Lagos. Topics discussed range from Employability and soft skills development for young adults to Policy issues in academic adult education in Nigeria to Paradigm shift on the curricular structure of academic adult education in Nigeria.

The first week of the summer school also featured an insightful country presentation with inputs from German participant delegates and Nigeria participant delegates on the three focus area of the summer school namely; Adult education and Lifelong Learning, Curricular Structures of



Academic Adult Education, Didactics and Methods in Academic Adult Education. Participant were distributed in 10s across the three groups. Three adult education fields were visited namely National Opportunities and Industrial Centers (NOIC), Nigerian Railway Training School, Yaba, and National Directorate of Employment Agency, Onike, Sabo. – Government. The visit to those fields

gave me an insight into the reality of the needed paradigm shift in the curricular structure and teaching modes of academic adult education in Nigeria; and my role in sensitizing my colleagues in the field and engaging in intellectual discussions in advocacy for the incorporation of real market needs in the curricular structure and teaching modes of academic adult education. Thereby conquering the challenge of skill mismatch right from the kind of education received by the young adults who study adult education before turning them out to the labour market.

Another notable moment for me during the first week of the Summer school was when I was nominated as my University's student delegate to visit the Vice chancellor of the University of Lagos. The visit awakened the sleeping giant in me to give my very best to get to the topmost top of my academic career. So, the first week activities ended with a visit to the beach, featuring diverse form of interactions from intellectual discussions to exchange of ideologies and games (building of castle with sand etc.)

The second week featured a two day National holiday for the celebration of the Muslim's Eid el Kabir (Islamic Celebration). During this holiday, the participants went on a market tour (Idumota market) with the Professors and participants from University of Lagos as Tour guide. The remaining days in the second week was laced around the making of a webinar. The making of the webinar for me was a lifetime opportunity as until the time, I've never had a good grasp of what goes into the production of a webinar. It was such an historic moment for me from the brainstorming on the topic of the webinar to the identification of the core content to be included, to the joint decision and contributions on how best to drive home those ideas, to the actualization of our plans and the presentation. Having compared and contrast the content, structure, similarities, differences, strengths and weaknesses of the core curriculum of academic adult education in Germany and Nigeria; the International Summer School 2019 outcome for us in my group (group two) with the topic Rethinking Academic Adult Education: A Comparative asatudy of Nigeria and Germany, was that it is expedient that both countries unlearn and relearn for best practice in academic adult education.

The International Summer was really an unquantifiable academic experience with a lifelong impact as it provided an enabling environment for a broaden academic horizon and cultural horizon given the series of group activities ranging from brainstorming to interactive sessions to

presentations to group discussion and to the building of a formidable team spirit in us. For instance, the school gave me an in-depth exposure to the core curriculum of academic adult education in Nigeria and a glimpse into what obtains in Germany which gives us a basis for comparison. The International Summer School 2019 afforded me an invaluable and promising opportunity to sharpen my intellect and boost my capacity in engaging in comparative study in my current and future research. Also, the interactions at different stage was such a thrilling experience for me as it enables my people skill- my interpersonal and communication skills. Every session at the Summer school was such a mind shifting and career goal realigning for me from the opening ceremony to the final presentation of the webinar. The welfare in terms of the accommodation, feeding and general welfare was top-notch given the fact that it's a student environment and also in a metropolitan city as Lagos, Nigeria.

And to this end, I express my profound gratitude to the Principal Project Coordinator- Professor Regina Egentemeyer-Neher, the Project Coordinator- Miss Clara Khulen, Professor Bola Simeon-Fayomi and the funders of this great mind-shifting and career goal-realigning programme, for the privilege of being nominated to be part of a programme of generational impact. No figurative expression can best quantify the innumerable measure of the impact of the Interact summer school in the career pursuits of young researchers, the field of adult education and the world at large by extension.

Odewole Oladunni S. (Masters Student)

Department of Adult Education and Lifelong Learning,

Obafemi Awolowo University Ile-Ife, Nigeria.

Odewoleoladunni@gmail.com +2348072170597