

# MAKING EVIDENCE WORK FOR BASIC EDUCATION POLICY AND PRACTICE IN NIGERIA



## PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE SESSION

*NAEC 2015 aimed to bring together top policy makers, technocrats, researchers, bureaucrats and key stakeholders in the Nigerian education sector. It was an opportunity to disseminate research evidence and discuss its implications on education policy-making.*

## SUMMARY

The conference on Making Evidence work for Basic Education Policy and Practice in Nigeria had 70 participants. Participants comprised of Commissioners of Education, Permanent Secretaries of Ministries of Education, chairmen of State Universal Basic Education Boards from Lagos, Adama-wa, Kano, Kaduna, Bauchi, Enugu, Jigawa, Sokoto, Katsina, Niger and the Federal Capital Territory.

The conference was acknowledged to be of benefit to participants in planning towards an improved education sector. There was a presentation of a research report by EDOREN on private schooling and teachers. The research report became a subject of discussion, linking to policies and practices to improve the education sector.

Some key recommendations included filling the data and evidence gaps for better planning, and establishing a stronger relationship among technical persons. It was also

recommended that the Federal Ministry of Education and partners make the conference an annual event, set up an evidence-in-education policy advisory group, and that an interactive community of practice should be established.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Participants recommended that

1. The conference on research, evidence and policy should be held annually.
2. An advisory group on education, evidence and policy should be established.
3. An interactive website and/or a community of practice should be established to enable ongoing dialogue on major policy issues.
4. Major gaps in evidence and database should be bridged.

5. Stronger relationships between researchers and data specialists should be built to facilitate educational planning.

#### PROCEEDINGS AND PLENARY INPUT

The conference noted the major gaps in generating evidence and the need to fill up the gaps appropriately. The need to build stronger relationships between researchers and data specialists was also emphasised, to facilitate planning.

The Honourable Minister of State for Education, Professor Anthony Onwuka, presiding over the first phase of the conference declared the conference open. In his opening remarks, Professor Onwuka emphasised the importance of data in proper planning and management for the education sector. The Minister of State also stressed the need to operate an evidence-based basic education policy in Nigeria.

The keynote speaker Professor Emeritus PAI Obanya highlighted the need for a more

reliable data and its use in planning for improved teaching and learning. He proposed a shift from surface level analysis to professional data collation, analysis and utilisation.

A mobile phone-based peer-to-peer network of girls of 16 years old in Kano, under the acronym TEGA, was shared. The network encourages “hands on” research on the needs of Northern Nigeria’s most vulnerable girls. TEGA representative highlighted the fact that evidence generated from the research must be shared and used.

Four, panel sessions were then constituted to discuss four focal areas: safe schools, more competent primary school teachers, improved learning outcomes and appropriate use of data. Presentations and discussions followed on availability and use of data as well as identification of key issues that need evidence-based and data-driven solutions.

#### ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Nigeria’s Annual Education Conference is organised by Federal Ministry of Education in partnership with the education portfolio of the UK Department for International Development; the Education Data, Research and Evaluation in Nigeria (EDOREN); the British Council and World Bank-supported Education Projects: Nigeria Partnership for Education Project (NIPEP) and the State Education Programme Investment Project (SEPIP). EDOREN is managed by Oxford Policy Management (OPM).