



Isaac Nnamdi Obasi (Autor)

**Private Higher Education and Public Policy in Africa**  
A Contrasting Case of Nigeria and Botswana

**PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION AND PUBLIC POLICY IN AFRICA:**  
*A CONTRASTING CASE OF NIGERIA AND BOTSWANA*

Isaac N. Obasi

<https://cuvillier.de/de/shop/publications/1252>

Copyright:

Cuvillier Verlag, Inhaberin Annette Jentsch-Cuvillier, Nonnenstieg 8, 37075 Göttingen,  
Germany

Telefon: +49 (0)551 54724-0, E-Mail: [info@cuvillier.de](mailto:info@cuvillier.de), Website: <https://cuvillier.de>

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Dedication	iv
Table of Contents	v
List of Tables	x
Acknowledgments	xii
Preface	xv

### **PART ONE : INTRODUCTORY AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND..... 1**

#### **CHAPTER ONE: GENERAL INTRODUCTION .....3**

Why should Public Policy care about Private Higher Education? .....	3
Private Higher Education and Public Policy as Recurring Theme .....	4
Private Higher Education as a Fast Growing Industry in Nigeria and Botswana.....	6
Private Higher Education: An Emerging and Growing Field of Study in Nigeria and Botswana.....	8
Neo-Liberalism and Globalization: The Policy Context of Private Higher Education Development .....	9
The Structure of the Book.....	10
Explanatory Notes on Methodology: Citation of Newspapers and Websites .....	10
References .....	12

#### **CHAPTER TWO: NATURE, TYPES AND GROWTH OF PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION ..... 15**

Introduction.....	15
Private Higher Education Institution: The Definition and its Ambiguities.....	15
Types of Private Higher Education Institutions .....	16
Theories Explaining the Growth of Private Higher Education .....	19
References .....	23

### **PART TWO: AFRICAN AND GLOBAL OVERVIEW .....26**

#### **CHAPTER THREE : STATE OF PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION IN AFRICA .....28**

Late Development of Private Higher Education in Africa .....	28
Reasons for the late development of Private Higher Education in Africa.....	28
State of Private Higher Education Development in Africa.....	29
Development Since 2003.....	34
References .....	37

#### **CHAPTER FOUR : GLOBAL OVERVIEW OF PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT .....39**

The 'Private Revolution' Phenomenon.....	39
Developments in Eastern Europe .....	39
Developments in Latin America .....	40
Developments in Asia.....	41
China's Special Case.....	41
The Japanese Large Private Higher Education .....	42

The Experience of Pakistan .....	44
The Case of Bangladesh .....	45
The Malaysian Twinning Arrangement .....	46
The Indian Diverse Private Higher Education System .....	46
The US Private Higher Education System as a Leading Model.....	47
The Church in US Private Higher Education History.....	48
Growth Pattern and Size of the US Private Higher Education .....	49
Programmes offered by US Private Higher Education.....	50
References .....	52
<b>PART THREE : PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION IN NIGERIA.....</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>CHAPTER FIVE : PUBLIC POLICY AND PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT AND UNDERDEVELOPMENT .....</b>	<b>57</b>
Six Historical Phases of Public Policy – Private Higher Education Nexus .....	57
1. The Period of Federal and Regional Governments’ Monopoly of Ownership of Higher Education Institutions (1960 – 1975).....	58
2. The Period of Federal Government Take-over of Regional Universities and the eventual Monopoly of Ownership of Higher Education Institutions (1975-1979).....	58
3. The Period of the Re-emergence of Regional (now State Government). Owned Universities (1979 & Beyond) .....	59
4. The Period of the Emergence of Private Universities with no Regulatory Oversight (1980-1984).....	59
5. Period of Proscription and Prohibition of Private Universities (1984-1998).....	59
6. The Period of Re-emergence of Private Higher Education Institutions and Public Policy Tolerance with Regulatory Oversight (1999 & Beyond).....	60
References .....	61
<b>CHAPTER SIX: PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES IN NIGERIA: HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT .....</b>	<b>62</b>
A Focus on Private Universities .....	62
The Early Period: Unplanned and Unregulated .....	62
The Intervening Period of Planning.....	62
Early Arrivals .....	64
The Period of Planned and Regulated Private Higher Education Development (1999 ... to 2008 and beyond).....	65
References .....	69
<b>CHAPTER SEVEN : DEBATE ON THE DESIRABILITY AND PROLIFERATION OF PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES IN NIGERIA .....</b>	<b>70</b>
The Background and Global Context of the Debate .....	70
The Crux of the Criticisms .....	70
The Counter-Arguments .....	70
The Evidence of ‘Public Failure Theory’ in Nigeria .....	72
References .....	74

**CHAPTER EIGHT: EMERGING FEATURES OF NIGERIAN PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES**  
.....77

Total Number of Nigeria's Public and Private Universities .....	77
Ownership Profile of Private Universities .....	77
Student Enrollment Capacity and Potentials.....	78
Enrollment Potentials.....	80
Major Programme Focus of Private Universities in Nigeria.....	81
Quality of Physical Facilities .....	84
Quality of Academic Programmes .....	84
Quality of Academic Staff .....	85
Governance Structure.....	86
The Fee structure in Private Universities .....	86
For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Nature of the Universities: A Blurred Line?.....	87
The Special Contributions of Private Universities .....	88
References .....	89

**CHAPTER NINE : THE SUSTAINABILITY OF PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES IN NIGERIA**94

The Question of the Availability of Potential Market.....	94
Parental Willingness to Pay for Private Higher Education .....	94
The Issue of Parental Ability to Pay: Market Comparability of Tuition Fees in Private Universities .....	95
Level of Fees across Selected Private Universities in Africa .....	96
References .....	98

**CHAPTER TEN : THE NUC AND QUALITY ASSURANCE IN PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES** .....99

The Origin of NUC .....	99
The Functions of NUC in Historical and Changing Perspectives .....	100
The NUC in the Eyes of Critics .....	102
NUC under the Period of Democratic Rule (1999 and Beyond): An Era of Improved Image and Relations.....	104
Maintenance of Quality Assurance in Private Universities.....	104
References .....	106

**CHAPTER ELEVEN : POLICY DEBATE ON PUBLIC FUNDING OF PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION**.....107

Public Funding of Private Higher Education as a Controversial Issue .....	107
The Changing Role of the State .....	107
Different Public Policy Instruments .....	108
The Debate.....	109
Concerns of Proprietors of Private Tertiary Institutions.....	111
Comparative Public Policy Lessons.....	111
Potential Benefits of Public Funding of Private Higher Education in Nigeria.....	113
References .....	115

**PART FOUR : PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION IN BOTSWANA..... 117**

**CHAPTER TWELVE : BOTSWANA’S NEW TERTIARY EDUCATION POLICY..... 119**

Botswana’s 2006 Policy Shift in Higher Education..... 119  
Understanding the New Tertiary Education Policy..... 120  
The Policy Origin and Challenges..... 120  
The Need for a Tertiary Education Policy ..... 121  
Goals, Objectives and Strategies of the New Policy..... 123  
Policy Recommendations ..... 124  
References ..... 126

**CHAPTER THIRTEEN : EMERGENCE OF PRIVATE TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS IN BOTSWANA ..... 127**

Brief Historical Background ..... 127  
Registered Private Tertiary Institutions with the TEC..... 127  
Organizational Profile of Registered Private Tertiary Institutions..... 128  
Student Enrollments in Botswana’s Registered Private Tertiary Institutions..... 134  
Total Enrollments in Five Private Tertiary Institutions..... 136  
References ..... 137

**CHAPTER FOURTEEN : THE GOVERNMENT SPONSORSHIP POLICY ..... 138**

The Student Grant/Loan Policy..... 138  
The Operation of the Grant/Loan Scheme..... 138  
Prioritization of Categories of Sponsorship..... 138  
Sponsorship Conditions and Recovery of Student Loans..... 139  
The Huge Cost of Overseas’ Sponsorship and Problem of Loan Recovery ..... 140  
Commencement of Sponsorship Policy in Local Tertiary Education Institutions..... 141  
Modification of the Sponsorship Policy ..... 141  
Cost of Students’ Sponsorship in Private Tertiary Education Institutions..... 142  
References ..... 144

**CHAPTER FIFTEEN: THE GAINS, CHALLENGES and SUSTAINABILITY OF PRIVATE TERTIARY EDUCATION IN BOTSWANA..... 145**

The Gains of Private Tertiary Institutions..... 145  
Challenges Posed by Teething Problems..... 145  
The Optimism and Ambitious Plans of Limkokwing University of Creative Technology ..... 147  
Public Policy and Sustainability of Private Tertiary Institutions in Botswana..... 148  
References ..... 150

**CHAPTER SIXTEEN: THE TEC AND QUALITY ASSURANCE IN PRIVATE TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS ..... 152**

Introduction..... 152  
Origin and Functions of the TEC..... 152  
The Organizational Structure of the TEC..... 153

Major Activities of the TEC .....	154
TEC's Procedures for Registering Private Tertiary Institutions .....	155
Are Unregistered Private Tertiary Institutions Illegal? .....	157
Accreditation and Quality Assurance Mechanisms .....	158
TEC's Developmental Approach to Regulation.....	159
References .....	162
<b>PART FIVE : CONTRASTING CASE STUDIES .....</b>	<b>164</b>
<b>CHAPTER SEVENTEEN : NIGERIA AND BOTSWANA: A CONTRASTING CASE STUDY .....</b>	<b>166</b>
Political, Economic, Social and Geographical Features of Nigeria and Botswana....	166
Structure of Tertiary Education System in Both Countries .....	166
Contrasting Features of Private Tertiary Education in Nigeria and Botswana .....	167
Ownership Structure .....	167
Student Enrollments .....	168
Programmes Offered .....	169
Regulatory Mechanism for Quality Assurance and Accreditation .....	170
Governance Structure.....	170
Quality of Academic Staff .....	171
The Fee Structure.....	172
The Issue of Sustainability of Private Higher Education .....	172
References .....	173
<b>CHAPTER EIGHTEEN : PUBLIC POLICY AND PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION IN AFRICA: A CONCLUSION.....</b>	<b>174</b>
Private Higher Education - Public Policy Nexus .....	174
Public Policy Environment and its Vicissitudes .....	174
Key Features of African Private Higher Education.....	175
References .....	176
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY.....</b>	<b>177</b>
<b>Appendix A: Number of Private Higher Education Institutions (PHEIs) in African Countries &amp; Level of Educational Programmes offered (2003) .....</b>	<b>187</b>
<b>Appendix B: List of Approved Private Universities in Nigeria in order of the Date of Licensing (1999-2007).....</b>	<b>189</b>
<b>Appendix C : Steps in Processing of Applications for the Establishment of Private Universities in Nigeria.....</b>	<b>190</b>
<b>Appendix D: Summary of Total Enrollments in Five Private Tertiary Institutions in Botswana .....</b>	<b>190</b>
<b>Appendix E: Detailed Enrollment Figures in Five Private Tertiary Institutions in Botswana Across Programmes .....</b>	<b>191</b>

<b>Appendix F: Extent of Loan According to Category of Programme of Study.....</b>	<b>198</b>
<b>Appendix G: Comparative Cost of Government Sponsorship of Students in both Public and Private Institutions .....</b>	<b>199</b>
<b>Appendix H: Average Allowance and Tuition Fees Per Student (Academic Year 2008/2009) .....</b>	<b>199</b>
<b>INDEX .....</b>	<b>201</b>