



# NIGERIAN TEACHERS COMMUNITY

*...using classrooms to transform lives*

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[WWW.NIGERIANTEACHERS.ORG](http://WWW.NIGERIANTEACHERS.ORG)

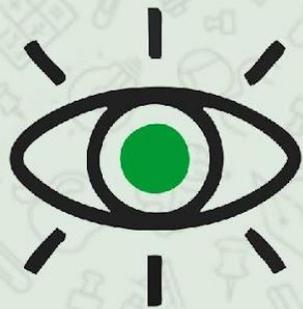
#nigerianteachers





## **OUR MISSION**

To make teaching effective, very rewarding, and attractive.



## **OUR VISION**

Teaching, effectively practiced and is a very rewarding profession of choice for top talents in Nigeria by year 2030.



Community Accelerator  
Program 2021

**DR. PETER OGUDORO**  
**LEADER OF THE COMMUNITY**

# OUR MOTIVATION

The Founder of the community met huge obstacles on his way to getting the uncommon education he received globally to benefit his country, Nigeria. He earned his PhD in Education with emphasis on Career Management, Attitude Change, and Product Diffusion at the University of Reading, UK through gracious access to the right career information and the demonstration of resilience.

He did his doctoral research in over 10 research-intensive institutions round the world including Cambridge University and in diverse countries including UK, Nigeria, Austria, Norway and Sweden. His investigations revealed that poor career service across the globe and especially in Nigeria is one of the major factors responsible for poor career choices and the unfortunate pervasive human suffering in the country and globally. The establishment of this community is his contribution to the democratisation of access to good quality education which has changed his life in very significant positive ways.

# OUR VALUES

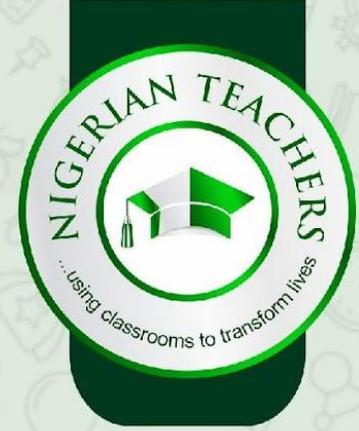


1. **C**ollaboration
2. **R**esponsibility
3. **I**ntegrity
4. **S**ervice
5. **P**atience
6. **C**ompassion
7. **R**eliability
8. **I**nclusiveness
9. **L**ife-Long Learning
10. **O**pen-Mindedness



## THE PROBLEM WE ARE SOLVING WITH OUR PLATFORM

Most of the about two million teachers in Nigeria lack the prerequisite knowledge, skills, and motivation to run classrooms that can produce creative, innovative, and globally competitive graduates. This situation promotes pervasive poverty and very challenging socioeconomic and political problems in the country. Poor quality teaching resulting from ineffective teaching methodology promotes examination malpractice, high unemployment rate, pervasive poverty, and multifaceted social problems.



## THE SOLUTION WE OFFER

Teachers using the platform fill their knowledge gap and get answers to their teaching challenges in real time and are now able to apply effective teaching methodologies to guarantee profitable student engagement and school leadership. The platform is promoting best and globally competitive teaching practices for a more functional education system. The platform is providing teachers cutting-edge knowledge and skills their employers lack the resources to give them. The beneficiaries have become more impactful teachers and are producing more globally competitive students with salutary effects on students' mental health, teacher retention, and employability of products of the school system.



## OUR ONLINE EMPOWERMENT PLATFORM AND HOW WE OPERATE.

This is a Facebook community platform that has been adapted to provide free peer-generated cutting-edge continuous professional development resources for teachers. It is called **Nigerian Teachers**. Hundreds of thousands of teachers are currently using it to mitigate the failure of teachers' employers to train them because of funding challenges and fear of losing skilled teachers. The platform is also a job board that gives unemployed teachers access to school owners who need them thereby helping to guarantee the optimal use of available human capital in the education industry. This is a critical contribution to Global prosperity and peace, education being development's anchor.



**Our Online Community Meeting Place**

[www.facebook.com/groups/nigerianteachers](http://www.facebook.com/groups/nigerianteachers)

## **PEOPLE ON OUR PLATFORM**

Teachers, school leaders, school owners, education policy makers in public education agencies, parents, teacher trainers, and trainee teachers.



**POPULATION OF  
TEACHERS IN THE WORLD  
Over 85 Million**

**POPULATION OF  
TEACHERS IN NIGERIA  
Over 2 Million**

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**OUR MEMBERSHIP STRENGTH**  
**About a million members from over 100**  
**countries and increasing rapidly.**





# OUR COMMUNITY'S RANK

The most engaged teachers' community in the world. All our members are literate and generous with what they know. We share our posts beyond our community, reaching millions of parents whose children we take care of.

About a million non-members visit our online platform regularly to pick up helpful information on parenting, teaching, marriage, business, and community development.





## OUR DISTRIBUTION BY GENDER

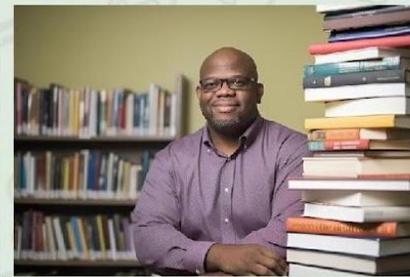
- **40% Male**
- **60% Female**



## AGE RANGE OF OUR MEMBERS

**18-65  
Years**

## AGE RANGE OF THE CHILDREN AND ADULTS WE TEACH **3 months- 65 Years**





**POPULATION OF CHILDREN  
AND YOUNG PEOPLE SERVED  
BY TEACHERS IN NIGERIA**

**Over 50MILLION**



Nigeria's population is skewed in favour of young people given the country's high fertility rate. This will make the country the 3rd most populous country in the world by the year 2050 when its population will approach half a billion people. Teachers reach virtually every family in Nigeria directly and indirectly through our students, and their parents.

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**THE COUNTRIES OUR  
MEMBERS COME FROM:**

Nigeria (and in every city in the country where there is access to the internet), and over 100 other countries including Philippines, Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, UK, Cameroon, India, USA, Benin, Canada, and Germany.

# THE OPPORTUNITY WE PROVIDE



Teachers occupy a strategic position in society although poorly recognized and rewarded for their contribution to the development of society. Sustainable development depends significantly on education which teachers drive.

We sell ideas that shape cultures, speed of development, and consumer behaviour. We give governments and brands access to the minds of producers and consumers of today and the future. Our students and “parents” trust the information we provide and willing to try ideas, products, and services we recommend. We use our power ethically and happy to use our platforms to promote anything we believe will serve society’s best interest.



# OUR PARTNERS

They include institutions training teachers, parents, public education agencies, relevant regulatory authorities and professional bodies, sponsors, donors, education advocates, and brands that work with us to pursue mutually beneficial outcomes. Our partners are in countries such as Nigeria, UK, Canada, Germany, USA, Hungary, Ghana, Brazil, Kenya, South Africa, Ireland, Sweden, Norway, and Finland.



# AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

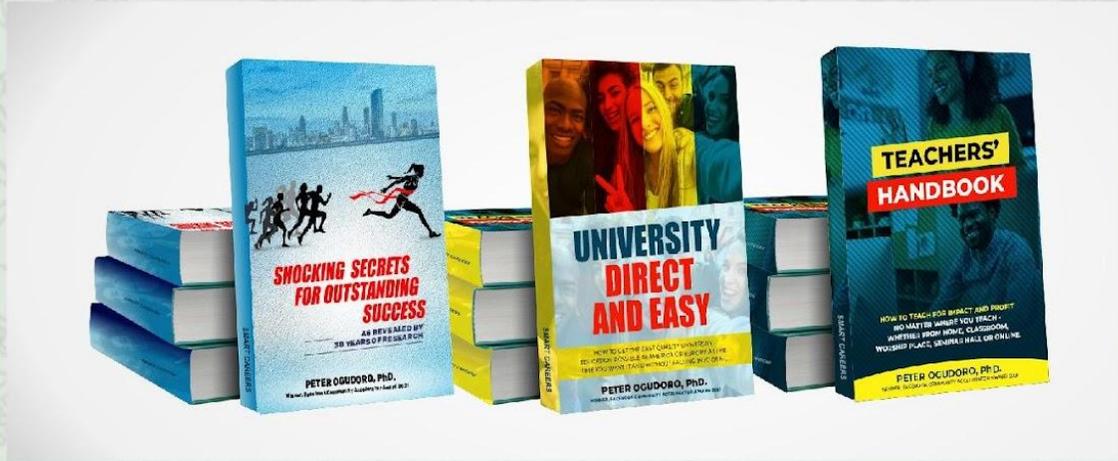
We won the Facebook Community Accelerator Award for 2021 and one of the 3 Finalists for Social Action (Nigeria) in the 2023 Study UK Alumni Awards by the British Council. Our Founder is a significant voice in the global education space and is a highly sought after education analyst, education researcher, career advisor, and trainer of education stakeholders. We get generous media mention.

INTERNATIONAL  
**TEACHERS**  
CONFERENCE



## OUR PRODUCTS

1. Annual International Teachers' Conference and awards
2. Workshops, seminars, and masterclasses
3. Literature relevant to teaching and education



## MEDIUM TERM PROJECTS

1. Teachers Handbook- a commissioned project.
2. Book on Success Principles.
3. Book on Access to University and Career Management.



## **LONG TERM PROJECT**

Teachers' House- A multi-purpose facility for teachers' events and retreats.



# OUR BUSINESS MODEL

The peer-generated resources shared on our platforms are free for both members and non-members of our community. Our Premium Membership, and participation in our Annual Teachers' Conference and workshops attract charges. We are developing grants, and sponsorships as major revenue sources so we can remain accessible to teachers.



## **THE UNIQUENESS OF OUR BUSINESS MODEL**

Poorly remunerated teachers are getting free cutting-edge knowledge, and skills and solutions to their teaching challenges in real time. Facebook app which is fundamentally a social medium is now converted to a training platform which makes teachers' continued professional development affordable in a grossly under-resourced education system. The platform bridges the gap in knowledge and skills between teachers in urban and rural communities and between public and private school teachers and promotes equity in the education system. Beneficiaries do not have to worry about the cost of their training which donors, grantors and sponsors take care of.

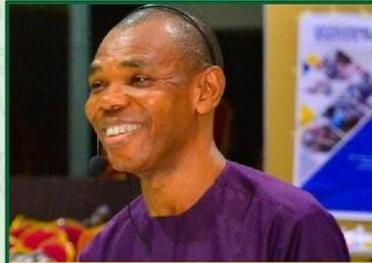


## **HOW OUR UNIQUE BUSINESS MODEL DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY SERVES UNDERSERVED/MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES/POPULATIONS.**

Teachers in Nigeria are poorly trained and are poorly recognized and rewarded for the very indispensable role they are playing in society. Our Community celebrates them and provides them resources they cannot get otherwise. Those resources include ideas on how they can earn higher income without compromising high teaching standards. This is improving teacher retention and job satisfaction.



# COMMUNITY'S AMAZING TEAM



**DR. PETER  
OGUDORO**

HE LEADS THE COMMUNITY



**IPINOLUWA  
AKINTOLA**

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT  
OFFICER



**GODSWILL  
OGUDORO**

COMMUNITY STEM OFFICER



**DEBORAH  
SANUSI**

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT  
OFFICER



**MARVELLOUS  
OGUDORO**

PARTNERSHIPS  
DEVELOPMENT OFFICER



**MAYOWA  
AINA**

CREATIVES AND  
DESIGNS OFFICER



**SURPRISE  
ODUNBAKUN**

EVENTS AND IT  
SUPPORT OFFICER



**MARGARET  
OGUDORO**

HEAD OF ADMINISTRATION



**MOELLA  
MATTHEWS**

COMMUNITY WELFARE  
OFFICER



## **COMMUNITY'S AMAZING TEAM**

### **DR. PETER OGUDORO**

#### **HE LEADS THE COMMUNITY**

He is an alumnus of the University of Reading in England where he earned a PhD in Education with emphasis on Career Management, Attitude Change, and Product Diffusion.

He trained for this role in over ten research-intensive institutions across the world including University of Cambridge and in countries such as Norway, UK, Nigeria, Sweden, Austria, and Finland.

### **IPINOLUWA AKINTOLA**

#### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER**

Her areas of training and experience include Public Relations, Media and Communication, and Criminal Justice.

### **DEBORAH SANUSI**

#### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER**

Her areas of training and experience include Mass Communication, and Public Relations.

### **MARGARET OGUDORO**

#### **HEAD OF ADMINISTRATION**

Her areas of training and experience include Mass Communication, Management, Banking, Public Relations, and Advertising

### **GODSWILL OGUDORO**

#### **COMMUNITY STEM OFFICER**

His areas of training and experience include Mathematics, Physics, Computer Science, and Public Relations.

### **MARVELLOUS OGUDORO**

#### **PARTNERSHIPS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER**

His areas of training and experience include Political Science, Philosophy, and Business Management.

### **MOELLA MATTHEWS**

#### **COMMUNITY WELFARE OFFICER**

Her areas of training and experience include Management, and Public Relations.

### **MAYOWA AINA**

#### **CREATIVES AND DESIGNS OFFICER**

His areas of training and experience include Graphic Arts and Public Relations.

### **SURPRISE ODUNBAKUN**

#### **EVENTS AND IT SUPPORT OFFICER**

His areas of training and experience include Accounting, Human Resources Management, and Public Relations.



# WHAT OUR MEMBERS SAY ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY



**Nigerian Teachers**

**Uzoma Chioma**  
June 24 · 🌐

**This is the reasonable group, I have joined. Very educative. God bless all the teachers in the worl...**

675 262 comments

View insights 13.9K post reach >

Margaret Lola Ogunoro, Odunbaku Elijah Surprise and 673 others 262 comments 1 share



**Nigerian Teachers**

**Alfred Israel**  
April 24 · 🌐

**WHOEVER CREATED THIS GROUP HAS MADE A GREAT IMPACT ON TEACHERS AS IRON REALLY...**

280 62 comments



**Nigerian Teachers**

**Eace Hairven**  
January 20 · 🌐

Our fruit day was a success  
I got this idea from this group.  
...



335 63 comments

# THE DIVERSE ISSUES WE DISCUSS THAT MAKE THEM ENGAGE, LOVE AND APPRECIATE OUR COMMUNITY.

 Nigerian Teachers

 Okon Patience  
July 22 · 🌐

**What skills can you recommend for a teacher this holiday my fellow teachers?**

[View insights](#) 94.6K post reach >

👍 646 936 comments 6 shares

 Nigerian Teachers

 Emmanuel Christianah  
December 15, 2022 · 🌐

Dear teachers, What were you given by your bosses for Christmas?

 Rosemary Nkechijuma  
December 16, 2022 · 🌐

This is what my proprietor shared today ...



 Nigerian Teachers

 Kpamwan Mpine Tyohuma  
December 11, 2022 · 🌐

**School proprietors please take this mic 🎤 explain to us why you will not pay December salary.**

👍 🤔 2.1K 1.7K comments

 Nigerian Teachers

 Ayodele Lizzy  
August 14 · 🌐

**I hate those who do not check their spelling before pusting 🤔🤔**  
🤔 .. 🤔🤔🤔🤔🤔

👍 🤔 710 951 comments

[View insights](#) 68.6K post reach >

👤 Ronia Okeoghene and 709 others 951 comments 3 shares

# THE DIVERSE ISSUES WE DISCUSS THAT MAKE THEM ENGAGE, LOVE AND APPRECIATE OUR COMMUNITY.

 **Nigerian Teachers**

 **Ekisah Clems** February 5 · 🌐

My fellow teachers join me to celebrate ...



 818  195 comments

 **Nigerian Teachers**

 **Mabel Bokolo** February 25 · 🌐

Hello Nation Builders, I'm Dr. Mabel Bok...

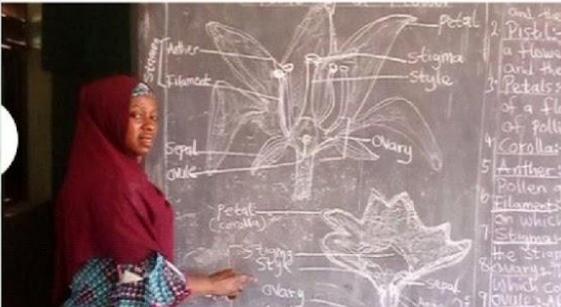


  3.3K  1K comments

 **Nigerian Teachers**

 **Agoro Lateefat** January 25 · 🌐

Good morning nation builder.Hope I tried



  6.3K  1.8K comments

 **Nigerian Teachers**

 **Nonyerm Onyeakagbusi is with Happy Obizo Egbunik...** January 28 · 🌐

My daughter 's wedding and traditional marriage was done and dusted to the glory of God, my fellow teachers...



 1.3K  462 comments

# THE DIVERSE ISSUES WE DISCUSS THAT MAKE THEM ENGAGE, LOVE AND APPRECIATE OUR COMMUNITY.

 **Nigerian Teachers**

 **Yhe Wan Dey II** August 9 · 🌐

Please when is school resuming am tired 😭😭



👍👍 2.1K 1.3K comments

[View insights](#) 137.6K post reach >

👍👍 2.1K 1.3K comments 114 shares

 **Nigerian Teachers**

 **Oladipo Audu Francisca Ene** July 21 · 🌐



 **Oladipo Audu Francisca Ene** is 🌟 feeling happy with **Bolaji Abisoje Ijatuyi** and 13 others in Alimoso, Lagos, Nigeria. July 21 · 🌐

This is what I got as the oldest teacher in my school. Five years of service in righteous kids Montessori school, my boss is the best boss ever ❤️❤️❤️ award well deserved 🎉🎉🎉 congratulations to me.

[View insights](#) 151K post reach >

👍👍 Margaret Lola Ogudoro, Funmilayo Loveth and 4.6K others 1.6K comments 91 shares

 **Nigerian Teachers**

 **Adeyinka Oluwatoyin** June 22 · 🌐

To God be the glory, after 13 years of N C E, I saw some of my secondary mates who have different degrees, I decided within...



👍❤️ 7.8K 2.6K comments

[View insights](#) 131.2K post reach >

👍👍 You, Margaret Lola Ogudoro, Moella Maths and 7.8K others 2.6K comments 13 shares

 **Nigerian Teachers**

 **Oladimeji Moses** June 16 · 🌐

I celebrate all our FEMALE TEACHER's af...



👍 8K 3.1K comments

[View insights](#) 116.9K post reach >

👍👍 You, Margaret Lola Ogudoro, Princess Bella Tony and 8K others 3.1K comments 54 shares

# THE DIVERSE ISSUES WE DISCUSS THAT MAKE THEM ENGAGE, LOVE AND APPRECIATE OUR COMMUNITY.

 **Nigerian Teachers**

 **Ejovi Joy**  
September 3 at 8:10 AM · 🌐

It's my birthday house.



 47K  12K comments  
View insights  1.8M post reach >

 Nwojji Ikechukwu J., Juliet Omadibi and 47K others  12K comments  221 shares

 **Nigerian Teachers**

 **Lawson Nwokah**  
November 5, 2022 · 🌐

To God alone be all the glory.

PhD in Education  
(Curriculum and Instruction) bagged.

  2.5K  780 comments

**Nigerian Teachers**

 **Seyi Mary Olaogun**  
October 24, 2022 · 🌐

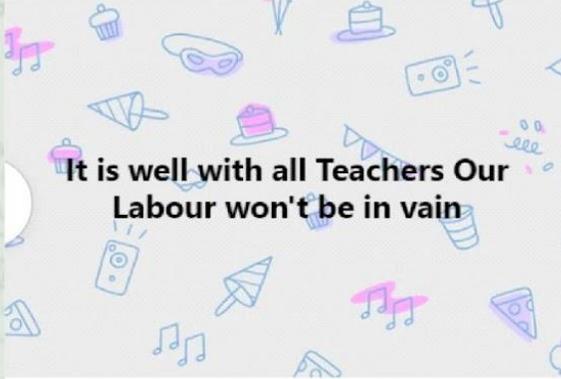


**Sooo painful.just lost our proprietress this morning....i am sure she is resting in the bossom..**

  2K  1.5K comments

 **Nigerian Teachers**

 **Gafar Bolarinwa Yusuf**  
November 5, 2022 · 🌐



**It is well with all Teachers Our Labour won't be in vain**

 2.7K  1.1K comments

# THE DIVERSE ISSUES WE DISCUSS THAT MAKE THEM ENGAGE, LOVE AND APPRECIATE OUR COMMUNITY.

**Nigerian Teachers**

**Balarabe Alhaji Abba**  
August 8, 2022 · 🌐

Teachers are custodians of knowledge and behavior changers. God bless teachers

👍 3.8K    💬 1K comments

**Nigerian Teachers**

**Matthias Samuel**  
January 2 · 🌐

Teaching is a call not a job. Once started it will be hard to leave. Even if you leave school, you will..

👍 2K    💬 505 comments

**Nigerian Teachers**

**Agnes Ejomah**  
September 8 at 10:50 AM · 🌐

Only legend can relate 🤔🤔🤔🤔

👍 🤔 6.9K    💬 2.2K comments

View insights    364.2K post reach >

👍 🤔 Oyekola Olagurju and 6.9K others    2.2K comments 148 shares

**Nigerian Teachers**

**Owoyemi Julianah Akinbunmi**  
September 5 at 9:08 PM · 🌐

When a teacher is getting married 🤔...

👍 🤔 1K    💬 264 comments

View insights    84.3K post reach >

👍 🤔 1K    264 comments 67 shares

# THE DIVERSE ISSUES WE DISCUSS THAT MAKE THEM ENGAGE, LOVE AND APPRECIATE OUR COMMUNITY.

**Nigerian Teachers**

**Ndifreke Abasi**  
August 29 at 7:37 PM · 🌐

These will not be ur potion



👍🤔 3.3K      3.5K comments  
604.2K post reach >

View insights      3.3K      3.5K comments      86 shares

**Nigerian Teachers**

**Lekan Quadri**  
August 18 at 8:17 AM · 🌐

I can't buy you at 55k and put you in th...



👍🤔 16K      1.9K comments  
1.3M post reach >

View insights      16K      1.9K comments      1.3K shares

**Nigerian Teachers**

**Comr Wisdom Nwosu**  
August 20 at 11:31 AM · 🌐

What song comes to your mind



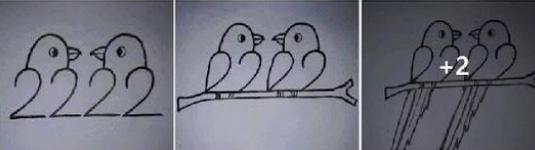
👍 11K      11K comments  
1.1M post reach >

View insights      11K comments      61 shares

**Nigerian Teachers**

August 29, 2021 · 🌐

Teachers lets teach our learners how to draw birds Copied



👍👍 Margaret Lola Ogudoro, Joel Ibiyemi and 6.2K others      1.1K comments      27K shares

👍 Like      💬 Comment      ➦ Share

View previous comments      All comments ▾

**Esh Vincent Oche** Follow  
Wow... beautiful  
Like Reply Share 2y

**Okoye Chimesa Rachael**  
Wow this is lovely and helpful for learners of drawing like some of us. 🤔🤔🤔🤔

# THE DIVERSE ISSUES WE DISCUSS THAT MAKE THEM ENGAGE, LOVE AND APPRECIATE OUR COMMUNITY.

 **Nigerian Teachers**

 **Mabel Omoruyi** August 10 · 🌐

 **English Grammar &...** August 8 · 🌐

Alphabets pronunciation and lips m...

**Aa - Aa Bb - Bb**  
**Cc - Cc Dd - Da Ee - Ee**

 1.2K  129 comments

[View insights](#)  81.7K post reach >

 1.2K  129 comments 404 shares

 **Nigerian Teachers**

 **Amogechieugben Eugenia** August 22 at 10:16 PM · 🌐

 **Peter Akubig** April 12, 2020 · 🌐

PLEASE KEEP UR KIDS BUSY WITH T...



  1K  177 comments

[View insights](#)  84.2K post reach >

  1K  436 shares

[Like](#) [Comment](#) [Share](#)

[View previous comments](#) [All comments](#)

 **Uryeme Sam** You really try much thanks ...

 **Nigerian Teachers**

 **Obi Daniel** Top contributor · July 14 · 🌐

What Kind Of Teachers Are In Deeper Life High School, ? That Produced Over 300 Students With 300+ Jamb Score. What Did They Do To Motivate Such Teachers.? How Much Is Their Salary? I Heard Many of Them Live In School. Please What Can We Learn Here? By Adebukola....

 You and 738 others

 66.4K post reach >

 561 comments  28 shares

 **Nigerian Teachers**

 **Princess Chisom Nnadozie** April 21 · 🌐

Remember this as you carry on with your teaching job:

1. Avoid familiarity with parents. It has ruined many
2. Avoid being too playful with students. If they see you as being too playful they'll never take you serious and it would cause you problems....

  2.3K  739 comments

# THE DIVERSE ISSUES WE DISCUSS THAT MAKE THEM ENGAGE, LOVE AND APPRECIATE OUR COMMUNITY.

 **Nigerian Teachers**

 **Muhd Buba Gaidam** January 21 · 🌐

**Except Teaching What Skill can you teach 4 Free..I said for free. Be honest because someone might...**

 1.5K  5K comments

 **Nigerian Teachers**

 **Sista Dos** November 5, 2022 · 🌐

What a creativity!!!



 1.6K  253 comments

 **Nigerian Teachers**

 **Bartholomew Ogah** is with **Katherine O. Oboh** and... March 16, 2022 · 🌐

Kid's window High School Gombe Nigeria. Teachers dressed up as students while parents teach. ( Micro teaching)....



  3.1K  868 comments

 **Nigerian Teachers**

 **Esther Chamberlain** April 25 · 🌐

I really need advice right now. I have this cute kid in my section that's around 4 yrs old.. he's very active and smart for his age.. this morning his Mom called that she will be coming to see me in school. When she came she wasn't looking well..I noticed something wasn't right so I tried to make her talk to me as s mother first before seeing me as teacher....

  469  437 comments

# IMAGE SNIPPETS FROM PAST EVENTS



**Christ The King School - (Franki and Nigerian Teachers Community Team)**



**Christ The King Group on Stage**

# IMAGE SNIPPETS FROM PAST EVENTS



Christ The King Group on Stage 2

# IMAGE SNIPPETS FROM PAST EVENTS



**Christ The King School  
(RASP Students)**



**Dr Peter Ogunro and  
British High Commissioner**

# IMAGE SNIPPETS FROM PAST EVENTS



**Queens College  
(Principal Office)**



**Queens College  
(Students Standing 2)**

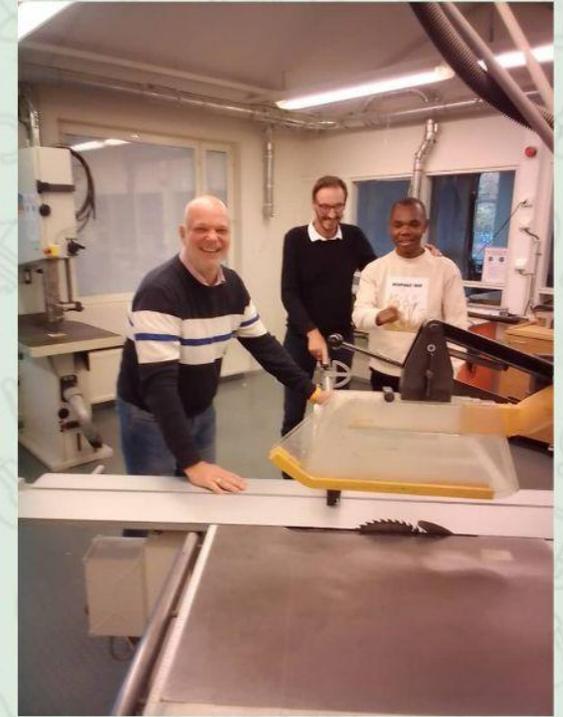
# IMAGE SNIPPETS FROM PAST EVENTS



**Franki and Omotola Sax  
At Queens College**



**Demilade and friend Speaking  
at the International Teachers  
Conference**



**Dr. Peter Ogunro  
and Timo-Kimmo  
Workshop**

# IMAGE SNIPPETS FROM PAST EVENTS



Amazing Team



Audience having Selfie with Ella

# IMAGE SNIPPETS FROM PAST EVENTS



**Christ The King  
(Gbagada Teachers Workshop)**



**De Joyland Schools  
Performing**

# IMAGE SNIPPETS FROM PAST EVENTS



**RASP Students Last Meeting With Ebonyy 2**



**Participants Day 1 at The International Teachers Conference**

# IMAGE SNIPPETS FROM PAST EVENTS



**Ebonny Gemseed Fruit Welcome**



**UK Alumni Awards  
Social Action Finalist Plaque**



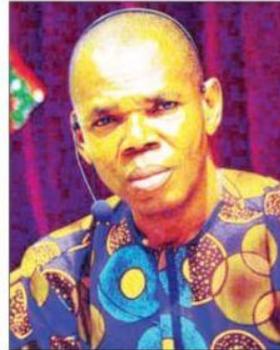
Community Accelerator Program 2021

## Peter Ogudoro Facebook Photo Frame

# panorama

## ASUU strike has driven many highly-skilled lecturers abroad – Educationist, Dr Ogudoro

In this interview with SEGUN ADEWOLE, Dr Peter Ogudoro, who holds a PhD in education with an emphasis on access to higher education and career management, reveals why Nigeria is lagging educationally and why most of the solutions implemented to solve the challenges in the sector are not working



-Ogudoro

teachers.

**Why do you think the government is finding it difficult to meet the demands tabled by the Academic Staff Union of Universities?**

Nigerian politicians prioritise education only when their children are involved. That's why they spend hard currency to train them abroad. Their children are not there. It does not matter how long public universities are inactive. Their families are not affected directly. Education for the poor is a cost to them, not an investment as progressive societies see it. I also think that Nigerian parents are docile and have been deceived into believing that the industrial sector is only about university lecturers asking for higher salaries. They should get involved in the conversation. They have more at stake than ASUU when everything is considered. Most of them don't have the means to send their children abroad for further studies.

The average university lecturer has alternatives. They can set up businesses in the fields of their expertise. Europe, North America, Australia, and several other places are seeking people with the kind of skills some of them possess. The reality students will face when public universities in Nigeria resume is that many of their lecturers won't be there to teach them. Many of the highly skilled among them have moved to other countries.

**With the high rate of tuition fees discouraging students from furthering their education, do you think the government should imitate the policy of student loans as seen in the US?**

Nigeria's major challenge now is not the affordability of public universities. They are among the cheapest in the world which is one of the problems afflicting the industry. Politicians lack the courage to confront that truth and deal with it. More strikes will happen in the future if we don't find a sustainable model for funding public tertiary institutions in the country. I don't understand why parents pay hundreds of thousands of naira annually to keep their children in primary schools and are unwilling to pay that same amount to give them access to higher education. Politicians running the system think that asking parents to pay appropriate fees will deny them votes but that's pedestrian thinking.

Payment of school fees should be determined. The children of the poor can study for free, but most parents can make the sacrifice it takes to pay fees for their children to receive a good quality education. The people running the Federal Ministry of Education should go back to school to learn how to introduce the appropriate level of school fees professionally. It's not rocket science. Even teenagers can learn it.

**Do you think religious attire (Hijab) should be part of school uniforms?**

Hijab is not Nigeria's major headache. Finland has the best system of education in the world today. Children don't wear uniforms to school in that country. I just completed an education research project in that country and can confirm that. You can wear anything you like so long as your teachers can see your face to ask you questions and help you to learn. School uniforms are out of fashion. Teachers there believe that children are all different. Asking them to wear uniforms compels them to believe that they must behave in only one way to become successful. We know that in the real world, varieties of routes exist for successful living. I visited a school in Helsinki where children from Somalia who now live in that city wear what their religion prescribes to sit in the class and that's okay with their

university are like that. They must be. Some students join classes from home, and you must cater for them. Nigerian politicians don't know the meaning of inclusive education. The world has left us behind which is very unfortunate.

**In what way can the private sector improve Nigeria's education sector aside from establishing its schools?**

I don't have evidence that convinces me that the promotion of private school education in Nigeria is a good thing. It makes our governments irresponsible. The ASUU strike has taken this long to resolve primarily because the children of the elite, who have a voice in society, are in private universities. If we make education a right as you have it in Finland and several other countries, it becomes the government's responsibility to educate every Nigerian child and that's how it should be. About 99 per cent of children in Finland study in public schools and the quality is the same even when that school is in a rural community. It is also compulsory for every child to remain in the school system till the age of 18. That has given them a highly educated society that ensures that politicians cannot manipulate them.

The insecurity, high level of unemployment, and other socio-economic problems confronting us are traceable to poor education provisions in this country. I think the politicians like it that way since ignorant people can't recognise their rights, not to talk about claiming them.

**After 62 years, should Nigeria still be talking about the issue of out-of-school children?**

It is shameful that the population of out-of-school children in Nigeria will create Finland in more than three places. The revolution in that country's education system started in the early seventies, long after we gained political independence. You cannot have a peaceful country with a highly illiterate population.

**Is it wrong for a public university lecturer to also be serving in private universities?**

If you pay your lecturers well, I think they will learn to stay in one place and do their jobs. Unfortunately, Nigerian university lecturers are paid peanuts. So, they must keep multiple jobs to make ends meet. We must, however, recognise that universities are unlike secondary schools where students learn relatively simple things such as Commerce, Government, and Biology which most people can teach after four years of university education. Some courses in the university may have only a handful of experts who must move around to teach what they know. If, for example, I choose to become a regular university lecturer in Nigeria, I certainly will move around because of my level of skill in the field of career management. We don't offer that course in Nigeria, especially at the graduate level, which is one of the major reasons our education system is upside down. I acquired my skills in countries such as the United Kingdom, Sweden, Norway, Finland, and Austria. Most Nigerians can't afford the cost of going to such places.

**Are private schools now better than public schools at the moment?**

We don't have evidence that proves that. All things considered, the most knowledgeable teachers at all levels are in the public education system but unfortunately, they don't take their jobs very seriously as we all want. Private schools may produce superior outcomes in terms of the performance of their students in public examinations but that does not necessarily translate to better skills for independent living. The level of supervision in the public school system is poor. Private school owners must impress parents to remain in business. One must admit that given the irresponsibility of Nigerian politicians, private schools are, for now, indispensable in the country.

**Why can't higher institutions look inward to generate the funds needed to stay afloat?**

You must train them on how to do it and provide them with the resources to move in that direction. They don't have what it takes to meet the expectations of organisations that can pay for solutions to problems. The idea of Nigeria asking lecturers to deliver without equipment is nonsensical. You must invest to get what you want.

## Punch Interview Dr Peter Ogudoro

**If you pay your lecturers well, I think they will learn to stay in one place and do their jobs. Unfortunately, Nigerian university lecturers are paid peanuts**



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