**Country**: Nigeria

**Comitee:** United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

**Topic:** Educational Problems in Nigeria

Nigeria, located in West Africa, is the most populous country in Africa with over 220 million people. Its geographical landscape ranges from coastal plains to savannas and mountains, with regional disparities in access to resources. Economically, Nigeria is classified as a lower-middle-income country, with a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of about $460 billion (2023). However, there is significant income inequality, with over 40% of Nigerians living below the poverty line. Demographically, Nigeria has a very young population, with over 40% under the age of 15. The country faces substantial challenges in education, with a literacy rate of around 62%, and the gap between urban and rural education outcomes is stark. While cities like Lagos have relatively better educational infrastructure, rural areas often lack schools, teachers, and basic educational resources.

Nigerian children face numerous barriers to education. Among the most pressing is the high number of out-of-school children, which is one of the highest in the world. Around 10.5 million children are not in school, primarily due to socio-economic factors, cultural norms, and security issues. In northern Nigeria, insurgencies such as Boko Haram have led to the destruction of schools and widespread displacement. Additionally, many families, especially in poverty-stricken rural areas, cannot afford school fees, uniforms, or transportation. Gender inequality further exacerbates the issue, as girls, particularly in the northern regions, often face barriers such as early marriage, household duties, and safety concerns. These challenges prevent many Nigerian children from receiving the foundational education they need to escape the cycle of poverty.

To address these challenges, several solutions need to be implemented. Expanding access to free and inclusive education, particularly in underserved areas, is essential. This includes the establishment of more schools, better training for teachers, and the integration of technology to bridge gaps in remote areas. Implementing low-cost digital learning platforms, such as solar-powered e-learning devices, can bridge the urban-rural divide and provide access to quality education in underserved areas. Mobile classrooms and virtual teacher training programs can address teacher shortages while ensuring professional development in remote regions. Encouraging public-private partnerships to fund infrastructure development and providing conditional cash transfers to families can reduce financial barriers to education. Moreover, integrating culturally sensitive, gender-responsive policies—like safe spaces for girls and community awareness programs—can combat societal norms hindering education. Collaboration with international organizations, such as UNESCO and UNICEF, will ensure sustainable, scalable solutions tailored to Nigeria's unique challenges.

Nigeria firmly believes that UNESCO plays a key role in supporting these efforts by working with the Nigerian government and local NGOs to develop policies that address education disparities. Through initiatives such as the Education for Sustainable Development program and the Education 2030 Framework, UNESCO aims to provide technical support, resources, and advocacy to enhance education quality and accessibility in Nigeria. The organization's global influence and partnerships can help mobilize the necessary resources to ensure that all Nigerian children receive quality education.

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