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NIGERIAN UNIVERSITY SYSTEM AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

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ABSTRACT

The paradigm shift from the developmentalist to the entrepreneurial function of university education requires a shift in the managerial sphere but management has remained in a state of flux in Nigerian universities. In the context of an evolving competitive and private sector-driven economy, the Nigerian university is expected to transit from developmentalist phase to entrepreneurial phase. However, the Nigerian university system does not appear to have effectively transited. What is responsible for this state of affairs? This paper, therefore, attempts to assess the expected shift from the developmentalist to the entrepreneurial function. The study employed secondary data source. The ultimate objective of any university is to strive to attain academic excellence by ensuring quality teaching, research and public service. This can only be achieved when the university uses innovative curriculum and pedagogical methods under conducive circumstances. This study however, revealed that the exponential increase in the number of universities and student enrollment without necessary funds has brought about dearth of other resources and facilities such as run-down infrastructure, inadequate laboratories, and ill-equipped libraries, all contributing to the decline in the university system. The universities are often characterized by outmoded operational processes and management structures. The aspiration of the Nigerian university system to transit from developmentalist phase to entrepreneurial phase is yet to be realized. For the country's university system to effectively transit to this phase it needs to be systematically planned with a profound change in the curriculum.

KEYWORDS: University System, Developmentalist function, Entrepreneurial function, Competitiveness, Paradigm, Expansion.