

**Variability in Regional Access to Higher Education in Nigeria:
Implication for Equity and Even Development among the
Niger Delta States**

E.A. Arubayi and Peter O. Ikoya

*Department of Educational Administration and Policy Studies, Faculty of Education,
Delta State University, Abraka, Delta State, Nigeria*

KEYWORDS Equity. Access. Higher Education. Niger Delta. Nigeria

ABSTRACT This research examined regional disparity in the establishment and distribution of higher educational institutions in Nigeria, and the implications for access and even development, as it relates to states in the Niger Delta Region of the South-South Geopolitical zone of Southern Nigeria. Adopting the ex post facto design, an analysis of current existing data on the distribution of universities in the Southern states of Nigeria was done. Findings from data analyzed show clear variability in regional distribution of universities, consequently occasioning disparity in regional access to university education. It was accordingly recommended that the principle of equity should also be constitutionally sustained, and its provisions upheld, in the distribution of higher educational institutions in Nigeria, as is currently done under the “quota admissions and employment” provisions.