Continental Teacher Qualification Framework and Standards and Guidelines for the Teaching Profession



Professor Steve Nwokeocha,

FNIM, FIMC, F.AFTRA
Fellow Chartered College of Teaching, London.

Executive Director

AFRICA FEDERATION OF TEACHING REGULATORY AUTHORITIES

Fédération Africaine des Agences de Régulation de l'Enseignement

www.africateaching-authorities.org

Offices: Abuja, Nigeria; Centurion, South Africa & Lusaka, Zambia

PREAMBLE

- These are reflections on what I consider overarching issues on teacher qualification framework, professional standards and guidelines for the teaching profession.
- Logically, I will like to start with professional standards and then teacher qualification framework and guidelines for the teaching profession.
- These reflections are based not just on extensive review of literature but more than a decade of practically dealing with such issues in the field – research works, focus groups, workshops and conferences, and policy development and implementation.

PREAMBLE

- May I humbly say that was in charge of the development of Nigeria's Professional Standards for Teachers (2012), which was and perhaps one of the most ambitious, covering all levels of education to the university.
- I was also hired by the European Union to develop the **Professional**Standards for Sierra Leone which is now a success story.
- I am member of the National Standards Working Group that developed the South African professional Standards for Teachers, etc, etc.
- I am member of the Working Group of the International Forum of Teaching Regulatory Authorities (New Zealand) charged by the International Task Force to develop global standards for the teaching profession. We presented our interim report at the Task Force's 10th Policy Dialogue Forum in Lome, Togo, 18-21, September, 2017 which formed basis of the Universal Declarations on the teaching profession of that year.

PREAMBLE

- I was part of the consulting team for the Commonwealth Secretariat, London that conducted research (2008-2009) for the implementation of the Commonwealth Teacher Recruitment Protocol.
- I was lead researcher UNESCO Regional Office in Dakar and covered the Anglophone countries for the development of the Teacher Qualification and Competency Framework for West and Central Africa, etc, etc.
- I all of these, it easy to understand that I will have many prospects and challenges to chew or reflect on concerning the subject matters at hand.

PROFESSIONALSTANDARDS

Professional Standards –

Standard is "a level of quality, especially one that people think is acceptable, ... a level of quality that is normal or acceptable for a particular person or in a particular situation, ... level of behaviour that somebody considers to be morally acceptable, ... a unit of measurement that is officially used..." (Oxford Advance Learner's Dictionary, 2000)

Professional Standards –

Therefore, teacher professional standard is a description of what a teacher must know (knowledge) and exhibit (skills) as well as the values, attitudes and behaviour expected in all relevant circumstances.

Professional Standards —

The professional standards "provide a framework of principles that describes the knowledge, skills and values inherent in Ontario's teaching profession. These standards articulate the goals and aspirations of the profession. These standards convey a collective vision of professionalism that guides the daily practice of members of the Ontario College of Teachers" (Ontario College of Teachers, Canada, 2016)

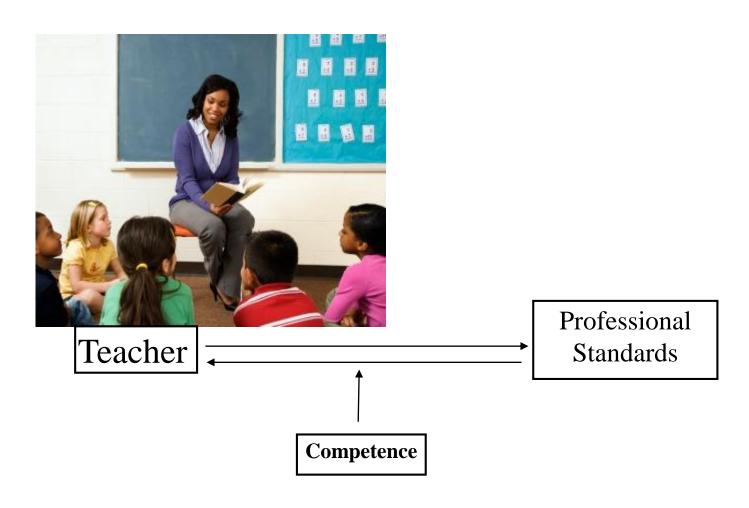
Professional Standards –

• Statements about what is valued. As measures, standards will not only describe what teachers need to know and be able to do to put these values into practice; they will describe how attainment of that knowledge will be assessed, and what counts as meeting the standard. A standard, in the latter sense, is the level of performance on the criterion being assessed that is considered satisfactory in terms of the purpose of the evaluation. Teaching standards must identify the central tasks of teaching, and adapt to changing public expectations of schools. (Ingvarson, 2002:3)

- The Declaration of the International Task Force on Education 10th Policy Dialogue Forum in Lome, Togo stated that teaching should become a Clinical Practice, something akin to medical practice – It is the professional standards that can provide the context/environment for clinical practice.
- In professional standards we are concerned with Teacher Competence!

- Teacher competence is the core consideration in teacher professional standards
- Teacher competence is the capability to discharge responsibilities or roles as a teacher. It also means the performances expected of a teacher at a particular stage in the career path.

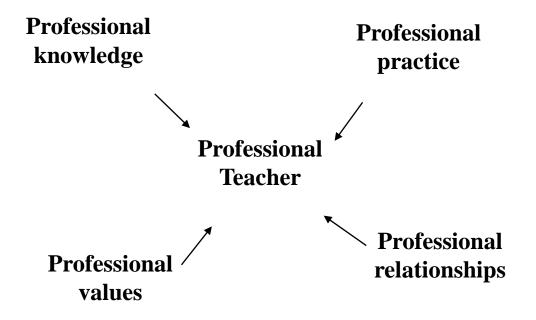
Competence is the relationship between the teacher and the professional standards



 Every teacher is evaluated against his or her ability to perform the roles and responsibilities or live up to the expectation of the standards.

 Professional standards are unique because they are different from 'individual' or 'group' standards. They represent the national and international consensus about what roles are expected of teachers. They are therefore superior and overriding.

- Domains,
- Standards,
- sub-standards and
- indicators are the key words.





Namibia Framework for the Professional Standards for Teachers, 2010

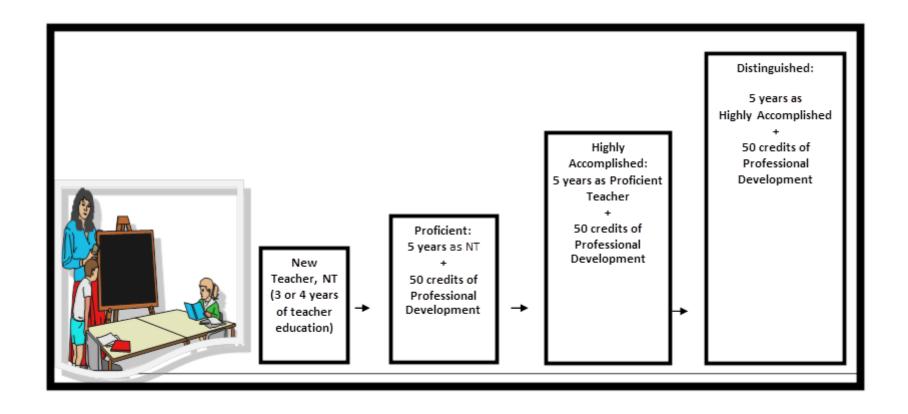
PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE Standard 1						
						Specifics
	New Teacher	Proficient	Highly Accomplished	Distinguished		
1.1						
1.2						
1.3, etc.						
Assessment						
Guide/						
Indicators						

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE Standard 8					
New Teacher	Proficient	Highly Accomplished	Distinguished		
8.1					
8.2					
8.3, etc.					
Assessment					
Guide/					
Indicators					

PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT Standard 13						
						Specifics
	New Teacher	Proficient	Highly Accomplished	Distinguished		
13.1						
13.2						
13.3, etc.						
Assessment						
Guide/						
Indicators						

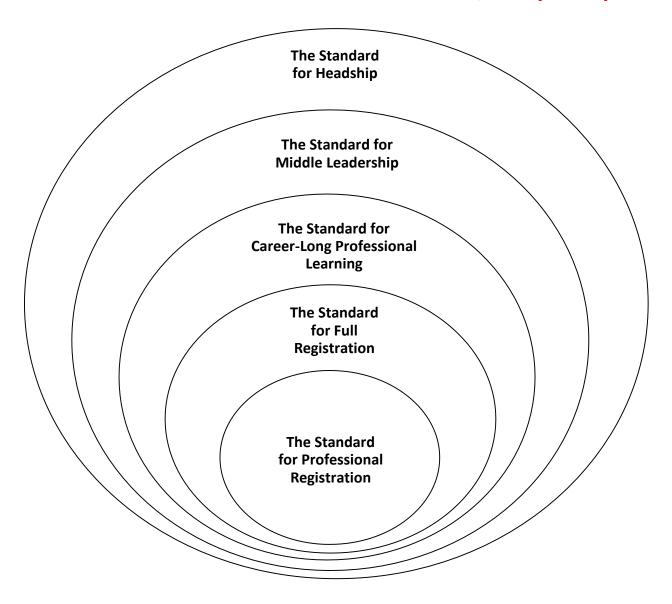
- The teacher career path has become an integral part of the professional standards.
- Teacher career path is a sequencing of the knowledge, skills and values to reflect levels of proficiency and years of experience. It way it is easier to arrange and account for the implementation of the teacher professional standards. It is also easier to fit teachers properly in their roles either as beginning teachers, mentors, or leaders in the profession. There are generally four to seven career stages operating currently around the world and driving the teacher professional standards.
- Teacher career path is powerful in terms of motivation teacher to strive for excellence and provides yardstick for reward and promotion into positions of higher authority.

Sierra Leone Teacher Career Path, 2017



- School leadership has often been treated with levity as a professional responsibility that requires no specialised knowledge, skills, values and orientations. This has accounted for the woeful failure of many education systems as scholars who have reviewed literature of high impact schools assigned over 60 per cent of the success factor to the competences of school leadership.
- Too often we forget that the school head ought to be both the instructional and organisational leader cum manager and that in the 21st century such roles require standards and qualification. Therefore, we now emphasise professional standards not just for teacher but also for school leadership. The standards for school leadership bring to the for the transformational role of the head of the school and the competences required to do so.

Professional Standards in Scotland, UK (2018)



PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS FOR SCHOOL LEADERS				
Standard 1				
Specifics	Sub-standards			
1.1				
1.2				
1.3, etc.				
Assessment				
Guide/				
Indicators				

Moving Forward

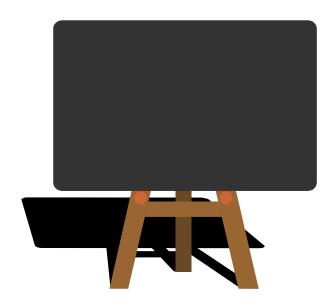
- We have the benefit of existing national and regional teacher and school leader professional standards in Africa which can be the building blocks for continental standards.
- Nigeria, Namibia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, etc.
- UNESCO Dakar has also pioneered such standards (called competency framework) for West and Central Africa. The SADC is working on a similar project.
- Outside Africa, a very good example of a country with independent regional education systems yet with a classical national professional standards framework is Australia.
- The articulation of a continental framework will require an extrapolation of the best practices in these African and other global cases.

Latest versions of Professional Standards in Africa: Sierra Leone

SIERRA LEONE TEACHING SERVICE COMMISSION



Funded by the
EUROPEAN
UNION
DELEGATION,
SIERRA LEONE



Professional Standards

For Teachers and School Leaders in Sierra Leone

Developed by this author

Latest versions of Professional Standards in Africa: South Africa



***With this author as member of the SA Professional Standards Working Group

•TEACHER QUALIFICATION

Qualification –

"Qualification is an activity by which a recognized body, independent of the parties concerned, gives written assurance that an organization, a process, a service, a product or professional competencies comply with requirements specified in a referential". It applies to all kinds of human, industrial, agricultural, organic, medical or qualification activities."

Law Dictionary –

Qualification –

The official confirmation, usually in the form of a document, certifying the successful completion of an education programme or a stage of a programme. Qualifications can be obtained through: i) successful completion of a full education programme; ii) successful completion of a stage of an education programme (intermediate qualifications); or iii) validation of acquired knowledge, skills and competencies, independent of participation in an education programme. This may also be referred to as a 'credential'. (UIS, 2011:82)

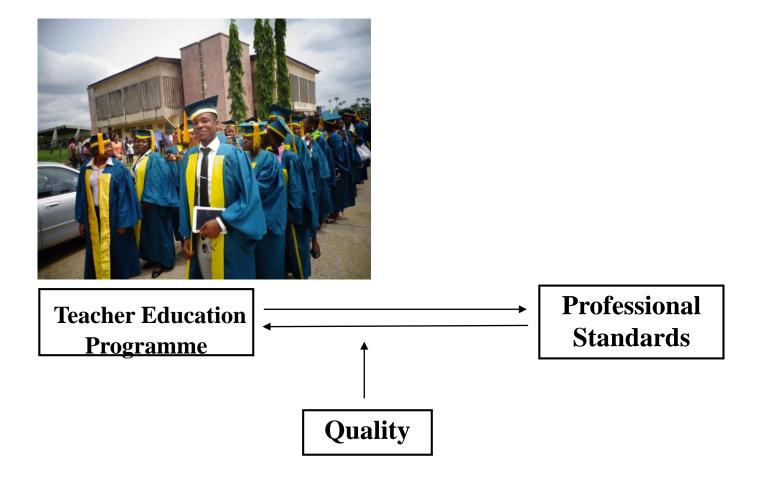
Qualification –

This is a **certification** awarded by approved educational institution to an individual deemed to have attained a stated level of knowledge, skills and values as defined by the educational laws, policies and practices of the country or region.

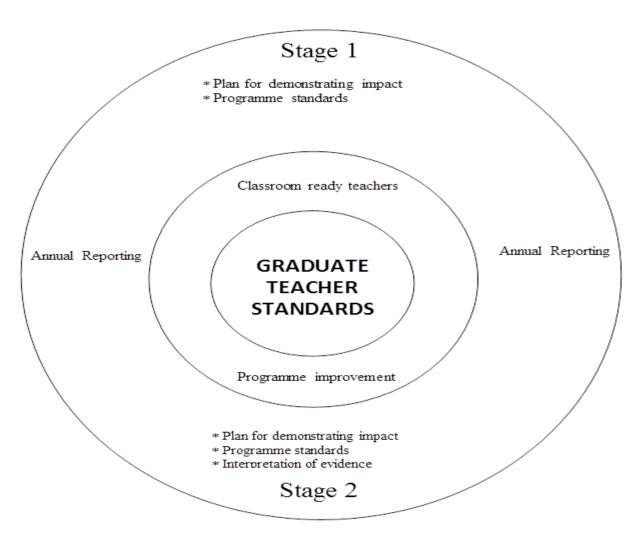
 An attestation/endorsement that a teacher education programme has capacity to do what it claims.

- Teacher qualification is about teacher education
- When we talk about the professional standards we focus on the <u>teacher</u> and <u>competence</u>; when we talk about teacher qualification, we focus on <u>teacher education</u> and <u>quality</u>
- In this context, quality is the ability of teacher education to produce graduates that meet the professional standards, measured basically by programme outcome and graduate impact.

Quality is the relationship between the teacher education and the professional standards

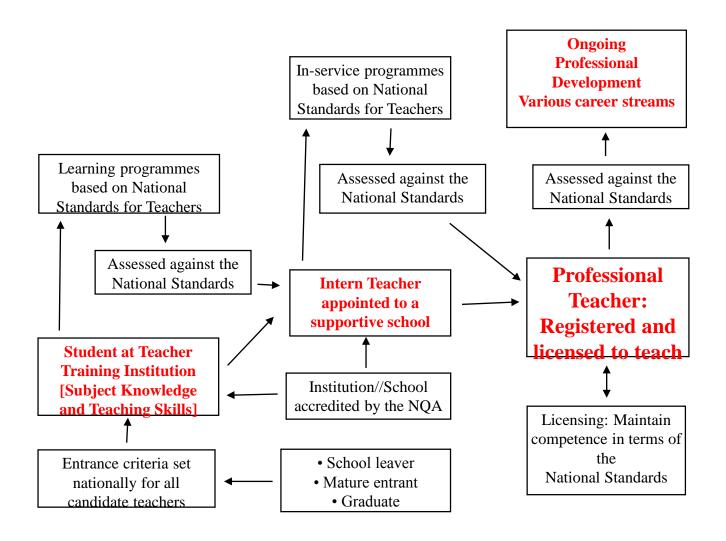


The Australian Teacher Education Accreditation Model



Source: Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership, AITSL (2015:6)

Namibian Standards-based Model for Teacher Education and Development, 2010



- Namibia's TE/CPD model is indeed a network/web of professional standards. The artery or life-wire of the the ITE and CPD are professional standards.
- This is about the best demonstration of how important professional standards are for TE.
 There is nothing we can say about TE without talking about standards and the best TE system is one that perfectly mirrors the professional standards.

- Since quality is the primary concern in teacher education, the TE accreditation authorities are basically concerned with:
 - TE quality framework,
 - -TE quality indicators and
 - -TE accreditation process?

- But Quality, they say, is like beauty beauty is in the eyes of the beholder. The concept is nebulous. However, a favourite view is that quality means "fitness for purpose"
- Therefore quality in teacher education means its fitness for professional standards
- Therefore, TE Accreditation authorities try to determine the quality of TE by checking its 'fitness for purpose', i.e. by checking how much it meets the professional standards.

 In other words, quality is abstract, we can neither see nor touch quality! But we determine its presence or absence by comparing TE programme specifics with the tenets of the professional standards.

- Thus, there is a huge resource base on TE quality framework and indicators –
- Every single TE accreditation manual or document

 The Commonwealth of Learning and National Assessment and Accreditation Council of India (2006; 2007a; 2007b) alone provided **75** TE quality indicators extrapolated from 7 Key Areas and 25 Quality Aspects. These apply to both ITE and CPD.

National Assessment and Accreditation Council & Commonwealth of Learning (2007:11-12)

Key Area (KA)	Quality Aspect (QA)	Quality	
		Indicator (QI)	
I.	1. Institutional Vision	QI 1	
Curriculum			
Design and	2. Process of Curriculum	QI 2, QI 3 & QI 4	
Planning	Design		
	3. Curriculum Content QI 5,	QI 6, QI 7, QI 8	
		& QI 9	
	4. Curriculum Revision	QI 10 & QI 11	
II.	5. Induction / Orientation	QI 12 & QI 13	
Curriculum	6. Transaction of Theory	QI 14, QI 15, QI	
Transaction		16 & QI 17	
and	7. Transaction of Practical	QI 18, QI 19, QI	
Evaluation	Experiences	20 & QI 21	
	8. Assessment and	QI 22, QI 23, QI	
	Evaluation	24 & QI 25	
	9. Teacher and Teaching	QI 26, QI 27 &	
		QI 28	
III.	10. Research and	QI 29, QI 30, QI	
Research,	Development	31 & QI 32	
Development	11. Community Engagement	QI 33 & QI 34	
and Extension			

National Assessment and Accreditation Council & Commonwealth of Learning (2007:11-12).

Key Area (KA)	Quality Aspect (QA)	Quality Indicator (QI)
IV.	12. Physical Infrastructure	QI 35 & QI 36
Infrastructure	13. Instructional Infrastructure	QI 37
and Learning	14. Human Resources	QI 38, QI 39 & QI 40
Resources		
V.	15. System Efficiency	QI 41, QI 42 & QI 43
Student Support		
and Progression	16. Feedback Mechanism	QI 44, QI 45 & QI 46
	17. Diagnosis and Remedial	QI 47, QI 48 & QI 49
	Programme	
	18. Guidance and Counseling	QI 50, QI 51 & QI 52
	Service	
	19. Admission Procedure	QI 53 & QI 54
	20. Social, Cultural and	QI 55 & QI 56
	Leisure Activities	
VI.	21. Internal Coordination QI 5	
Organisation and	and Management	QI 60 & QI 61
Management		
	22. Academic Calendar	QI 62 & QI 63
	23. Faculty Recruitment	QI 64, QI 65 & QI 66
	24. Financial Governance	QI 67, QI 68, QI 69,
		QI 70 & QI 71
	25. Academic Quality and	QI 72, QI 73, QI 74 &
	Management	QI 75

National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) USA, 2008

NCATE Standards		
Candidate Knowledge, Skills, and Professional		
Dispositions		
Assessment System and Evaluation		
Field Experiences and Clinical Practice		
Diversity		
Faculty Qualifications, Performance, and		
Development		
Governance and Resources		

Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation, (CAEP), USA 2018

SN	CAEP Standards		
1	Content and Pedagogical Knowledge		
2	Clinical Partnerships and Practice		
3	Candidate Quality, Recruitment and Selectivity		
4	The provider demonstrates the impact of its completers on P-12 student learning and		
	development, classroom instruction, and schools, and the satisfaction of its		
	completers with the relevance and effectiveness of their preparation.		
5	The provider maintains a quality assurance system comprised of valid data		
	from multiple measures, including evidence of candidates' and completers' positive		
	impact on P-12 student learning and development. The provider supports continuous		
	improvement that is sustained and evidence-based, and that evaluates the		
	effectiveness of its completers. The provider uses the results of inquiry and data		
	collection to establish priorities, enhance program elements and capacity, and test		
	innovations to improve completers' impact on P-12 student learning and		
	development.		

Council on Higher Education, South Africa (CHE), South Africa, 2004

Stage 1

Areas	Relevant aspects Criterio	
1 Programme	• Relation to institution's mission and planning • Needs of students and other stakeholders	
1. I rogramme	Needs of students and other stakeholders	
design	• Intellectual credibility	
	• Coherence	
	• Articulation	
	Characteristics and needs of professional and	
	vocational education	
	Learning materials development	
2. Student	• Recruitment	2
2. Student	Legislative issues	
recruitment,	Widening of access	
<u> </u>	• Equity	
admission and	• Assumptions of learning	
 - 1 - 4	• Professional needs	
selection • Capacity of the programme to offer quality education		
3. Staffing • Qualifications		3
J. Starring	• Teaching experience	
	• Assessment competence	
	• Research profile	
	• Staff development	4
	• Size and seniority	
	• Full-time and part-time staff	
	Legislation and conditions of service	
	• Procedures for selection, appointment, induction	
	and payment	
	Contractual arrangements	
	Administrative and technical staff	
4. Teaching	Importance of promotion of student learning	5
	• Institutional type, mode(s) of delivery and student	
and learning	• Appropriate teaching and learning methods	
strategy		
	• Targets, implementation plans, and ways to monitor,	
	evaluate impact, and effect improvement	

Council on Higher Education, South Africa (CHE), South Africa, 2004

Areas	Relevant aspects	Criterion
5. Student	• Internal assessment	6
assessment	• Internal and external moderation	
policies and	Monitoring of student progress	
-	Validity and reliability of assessment	
procedures	• Recording of results	
	• Security	
	Recognition of prior learning (RPL)	
6. Infrastructure	• Venues	7
and library	• IT infrastructure and training	
resources	• Size and scope of library resources	
resources	• Integration of library resources into curriculum	
	Management and maintenance of library resources	
	• Library support and access to students	
7. Programme	• Provision of information	8
administrative	• Identifying non-active and at-risk students	
services	• Dealing with the needs of a diverse student population	
	Ensuring the integrity of certification	
8. Post graduate	• Policies, regulations and procedures	9
policies, • Equity and access		
regulations and	s and Preparation of students	
procedures		

Council on Higher Education, South Africa (CHE), South Africa, 2004

Stage 2

Areas	Relevant aspects	Criterion
1. Programme	Mandate and responsibilities of the programme	10
•	coordinator(s)	
coordination	Student input and participation	
	• Implementation of policies for ensuring the	
	integrity of certification	
2. Academic	Student and staff development	11
development for	Curriculum development	
-	Additional student academic support	
student success		
3. Teaching and	Guidance to students on programme integration and	12
•	outcomes	
learning interactions	Teaching and learning methods	
	Suitable learning opportunities	
	Student involvement	
4. Student	Integral part of teaching and learning	13
_	• Internal (or external) assessment	
assessment	Internal and external moderation	
practices	Reliability	14
prueties	Rigour and security	
5. Coordination of	Communication	15
	Recording system	
work based learning	Monitoring system	
	Mentoring system	
6. Delivery of post	Management of the postgraduate programme	16
o. Denvery or post	• Assessment	
graduate	Implementation of policies for student admission and	
	selection	
programmes	Implementation of criteria for selection and	
	appointment of supervisors	
	Implementation of guidelines on roles and	
	responsibilities of supervisors and students	

INDIA: Criteria for Assessment and Weightages in Indian higher education accreditation

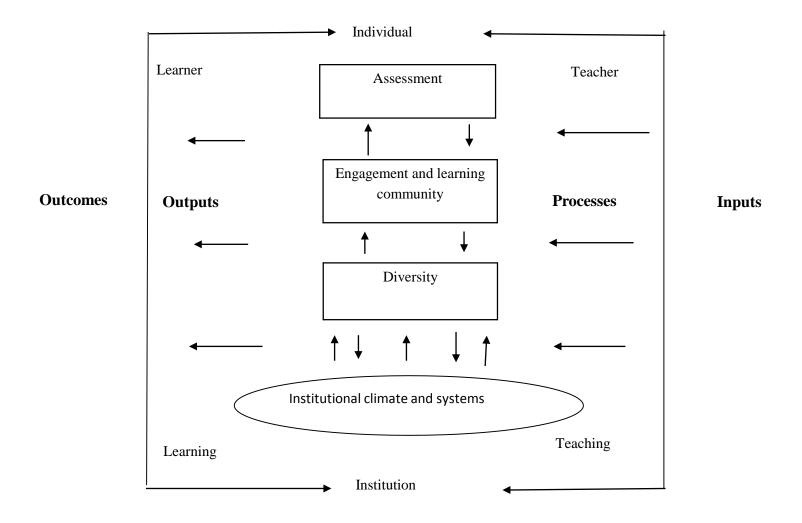
SN	Criteria	University	Affiliated/	Autonomous
		level	Constituent	College
		institutions	College	
1	Curricular Aspects	15	10	15
2	Teaching-learning and	25	40	30
	evaluation			
3	Research, consultancy	15	05	10
	and extension			
4	Infrastructure and	15	15	15
	learning resources			
5	Student Support and	10	10	10
	progression			
6	Organization and	10	10	10
	management			
7	Healthy Practices	10	10	10

Prasad (2005:9)

Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria, 2018

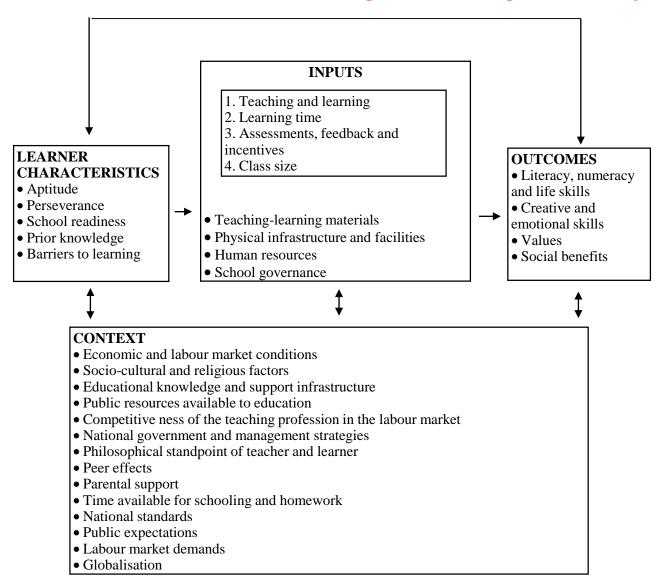
SN	Issues			
		1,2,3,4,5		
1	Evidence of law establish the institution			
2	Philosophy and objectives of the programme			
3	Copy of letter that accredited the institution (by NCCE or NUC)			
4	Adequate time table and academic calendar			
5	Course contents and course outlines			
6	Adequate classroom sizes, numbers and capacity			
7	Samples of course materials			
8	Adequacy of library and volume of books			
9	Availability of students handbook			
10	Adequacy of course lecturers, qualifications and experiences (years)			
11	Appropriate teaching practice assessment format			
12	Availability of moderated teaching practice results			
13	Availability of moderated question papers and results			
14	Availability of list of teachers and students with student/teacher ratio			
15	Adequate number of departments and students population			
16	Availability Of the current edition of National Policy on Education			
17	Fees chargeable			
18	Project supervisors/patterns			
19	Sample of question papers			
20	Final results and sample of certificates issued to PDE graduates			
21	List of students and their qualifications			
22	Availability of effective physical facilities: classroom, audio-visual laboratory, e-			
	library, micro teaching laboratory, journals, etc.			
23	Internal controls are put in place to preserve the integrity of students' records			
24	Coverage of curriculum			

The context of quality indicators in teacher education



Chalmers (2008:10)

From IICBA: Framework for understanding and assessing education quality



Adapted from Sanyal (2013:22)

- Overall, TE is a play ground of a myriad of variables with complex relationships one with another. Quality therefore entails and isolating and examining the impact of these variables individually and collectively on TE.
- Indeed, teacher qualification is not just the piece of paper called certificate, it is actually what transpired at the TEI.

The case for standard classification and coding of education data: ISCED 2011

- Comparison of teacher qualification either at the local, national, regional, continental or globle levels are near impossible unless there is standard classification and coding of education data.
- This is a serious gap that the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS)
 International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) has filled globally. No teacher qualification framework can go far without presenting its classification, coding and data within ISCED.

ISCED 2011

- As national education systems vary in terms of structure and curricular content, it can be difficult to benchmark performance across countries over time or monitor progress towards national and international goals. In order to understand and properly interpret the inputs, processes and outcomes of education systems from a global perspective, it is vital to ensure that data are comparable. This can be done by applying the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED), the standard framework used to categorise and report cross-nationally comparable education statistics.
 - UIS, 2011:iii

ISCED 2011

ISCED LEVEL	Description		Duration
0	Early childhood		no duration criteria, however a programme should account for at least the equivalent of 2 hours per day and 100 days a year of educational activities in order to be included.
1	Primary education		4 to 7 years, typically 6 years
2	Lower secondary education		2 to 5 years, typically 3 years
3	Upper secondary education		2 to 5 years, typically 3 years
4	Post-secondary, non tertiary		6 months to 2 or 3 years
5		Short-cycle	2 to 3 years
	Tertiary	tertiary education	
6	education	Bachelor's or equivalent	3 to 4 or more years when directly following ISCED level 3, or 1 to 2 years when following another ISCED level 6 programme
7		Master's or equivalent	1 to 4 years when following ISCED level 6, or from 5 to 7 years when directly following ISCED level 3.
8		Doctoral or equivalent	Minimum of 3 years

Source: Extract from UIS (2011)

The Case for TE Curriculum Framework

- Curriculum is the medium for the delivery of Teacher Qualification (or TE) – In TE reality runs in form of a curriculum, which is the sum total of the learning experiences designed for the programme.
- A Teacher Qualification Framework will be form without content if it does not deal with the issue of curriculum. This is not about curriculum content but curriculum framework. In other words, it does not have to prescribe content in absolute terms but it must deal with the generic, irreducible minimums expected of the content of a teacher qualification programme at the relevant ISCED levels.

The Case for TE Curriculum Framework

- One good approach to the issue of an African curriculum framework was the Research tagged "Tuning Africa: The Harmonisation of Higher Education - The African Experience" endorsed by the AU and whose findings were once presented here in the AU by our colleague, Professor Matete Madiba of the University of Pretoria during the 2013 PACTED & COMEDAF.
- The Research took up the challenge of conducting an African continent-wide research to determine the competences expected of teacher education graduates in Africa which led the research team to delve into a study of the related curriculum for the best Teacher Qualification programmes that could be continentally relevant.

- Teacher qualification routes the West versus Africa – in the West this is limited but in African seems infinite. This is a problem in itself.
- The issue of minimum teaching qualification in the West this has become almost universally a university degree in education or degree in any other field plus PGDE. In Africa, it is a full market of minimumm entry requirements, including six month post secondary education. In one of the African countries I learnt about a new type of teachers: the 'undocumented teachers'.

Tiers of The Frameworks

 Whether Professional Standards of Teacher Qualification Framework, the best results are guaranteed when these are existing robustly at the national, regional and continental levels. Therefore, the existence of the frameworks are these levels must be encourage.



Morrow & Keevy (2006:5), Nwokeocha (2013)

The aspirational nation of the frameworks

 Standards and teacher qualification frameworks are aspirational/ideal. The are determined based on national and international visions and not fixed to serve or uphold the existing weaknesses of the education system, e.g. unqualified teachers.

Guidelines for the Teaching Profession

- This looks as the critical summary of the things required to put the teaching profession on a sound footing in any country. Top on the list, is the need to enact a law to make teaching a profession which includes the establishment of a teaching regulatory authority.
- This is mentioned by AFTRA all the time and reechoed by the Declaration of the International Task Force on Teacher for Education 2030 at Lome, Togo in 2018.

Guidelines for the Teaching Profession

- Other critical indices are entrenchment of the professional standards, teacher qualification framework, professional registration and licensure, professional salary structure, and a lot more.
- These are issues that are before the AU, AFTRA and other important stakeholders to deal with in the months and years ahead. A comprehensive and validated guidelines on the Teaching Profession will help to propel teacher professionalism in Africa.

Thank You. Questions are welcome

