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EXPLORATION OF  
INDICES PROPELLING THE DESIRE FOR  
THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION AT THE NIGERIAN  
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, OGBOMOSO

A THESIS PRESENTED TO THE FACULTY OF EDUCATION  
NIGERIAN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, OGBOMOSO

In  
Partial Fulfillment of  
The Requirements for the Degree  
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## ABSTRACT

First-year entrants to theological education were investigated to examine the indices propelling their desire for theological education at the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary, Ogbomosho. The design instrument was a field-project, employing closed-ended questionnaire, administered to first entrants to the Seminary at the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary. The purpose of the questionnaire was to explore factors underlying the desire for theological education through cross-examination of data generated from survey instrument. Out of the total population of one-hundred and ten students at first entrants level, ninety-three students responded to the questionnaire.

Analyses of the results have identified five indices propelling the desire for theological education in the Seminary. These are: self-empowerment in scripture: 40.3 percent, to become pastor: 34.2 percent, to become administrative leader in church-denomination: 12.2 percent, to obtain degree certificate: 8.5 percent and to obtain qualification for a appointment: 4.8 percent

It is recommended that the percentage few that have come to the Seminary for the purpose of the certificate and qualification for appointment need to be helped to find their places of relevance after the Seminary, in order that resources exerted on them would not become wasteful. The majority (40.3 percent) who have come for to acquire knowledge need to have a holistic theological education, including academic and spiritual formation; this would satisfy their yearnings for knowledge. Not all applicants secure admission. The admission-office need to adopt counseling approach to all prospects in order to assist all applicants to properly manage the sense of call. Further, steps need to be taken to increase the geographical spread of students.

## Conclusion

The research has shown that the major driving force for a greater number of people desiring theological training is the quest for knowledge. It has also shown that though the seminary trains people to become pastors, becoming pastor has been shown to be a secondary motivational index. Degree certificate – acquisition has been identified as an attraction for only a very negligible minority of students examined. This information is instructive for theological educators. While it was true that student-misbehaviour had been appropriately dealt with by the authorities of the NBTS Ogbomoso, paucity of data on such students on appraisal of their earlier decision to come for theological training had denied this study such vital information. Similarly, there had been self-withdrawal from study by some students. No records on interviews by the authorities in determining the real issues for withdrawal were available. Such information could have been immense relevance to this study. This study also revealed the absence of direct relationship between the number of graduates produced yearly by the seminary, and the church-growth needs of the convention.

While it was reported that many Baptist pastors that graduated were without churches, to work with, yet the issue of this production had not been given due attention. The increasing demand by prospects had placed pressure on the institution to increase admission. It could therefore be deduced that the stated reasons for desire for theological training as being the quest for knowledge remained suspect, given the slim places of service after graduation. This situation in the theological circle is similar to the pervading atmosphere in the secular educational establishments, where

increased quest for tertiary education had become greatly competitive among applicants. The absence of Theological Education by Extension (TEE) had not afforded a comparative study in the examination of motives behind desire for theological education. The fact that certificate forgery have been detected among some prospective candidates places doubt on the gamines of the call of some seminarians.

### Recommendations

In the observations made in the course of this study, the researcher had made the following recommendations:

1. This research focused on first entrants to theological education in the seminary. A further study to examine the role post-graduate qualifications play in the Nigerian Baptist Convention would be informative for the convention.
2. The percentage few that have come to the seminary for the purpose of acquiring academic qualification also need to be helped in order to find their places of relevance after the seminary-training, so that the resources exerted on them would not become wasteful.
3. The admission – office need adopt counseling approach to all prospects who have a sense of calling, in order to assist them, whether admitted or not, in the management of their calling.
4. A more holistic admission requirement that is not based entirely on examination performance needs to consideration to form a balance.
5. Steps are needed to be taken to increase the geographical spread of students.
6. A strategy of weeding out those not called to ministry during process of admission need to be strongly enforced to forestall problems inherent from such admissions.

7. The question of theological education for knowledge through “Theological Education by Extension” need to be considered for increased relevance of the seminary in the church-community.
8. The Nigerian Baptist Convention needs to reposition itself in respect of the role the seminary ought to play in the life of the Convention.