

# **SPATIAL ANALYSIS OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA HEALTH SECTOR: IMPACT , CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS.**

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# Outline

- o Introduction to Nigeria Health Care and OT development
- o Situation Analysis
- o Reasons for The Imbalance
- o Impact
- o Challenges
- o Prospects
- o Clarion Call and Conclusion

# Introduction

- o Globally, Occupational therapy (OT) has come along way in promoting health and wellness although the popularity of the profession seems to vary from one country to another
- o While OT has been well integrated into the mainstream of health service delivery of many developed countries like USA and Canada.
- o OT development still remains with many challenges in many developing countries like Nigeria

## Introduction cont'd

The survival, sustenance and the development of the OT profession in such settings largely depend on the strategies that are evolved in coping with the challenges and maximizing the opportunities.

# Nigeria at a glance



# Nigeria at a glance

- o Nigeria is Africa's most populous country with a population of about 198 million (National Population Commission 2018).
- o The country is composed of over 250 ethnic groups with diverse backgrounds, orientation and beliefs.
- o The literacy rate is at 87:7. As at 2016 ,the population growth is 2.44%,with GDP of less than 5% on health (Index Mundi, 2017).

## .....Cont'd

- o There are 36 states in Nigeria, besides the Federal Capital Territory and they are structured into six geopolitical zones
- o Health services in the country are structured into; primary, secondary and tertiary level.
- o Presently in Nigeria ,OT services are mostly practiced at the tertiary level, a few special schools and rehabilitation centres

# Situational analysis of O.T practice in Nigeria

- o The Occupational Therapy profession in Nigeria can best be described as developing when compared to other sister professions in the country's health sector like physiotherapy (Eleyinde 2017).

Far back as 1950s ,Occupational therapy was already integrated into the service of the University College Hospital Ibadan and some hospitals in the western part of the country (OTAN 2017).

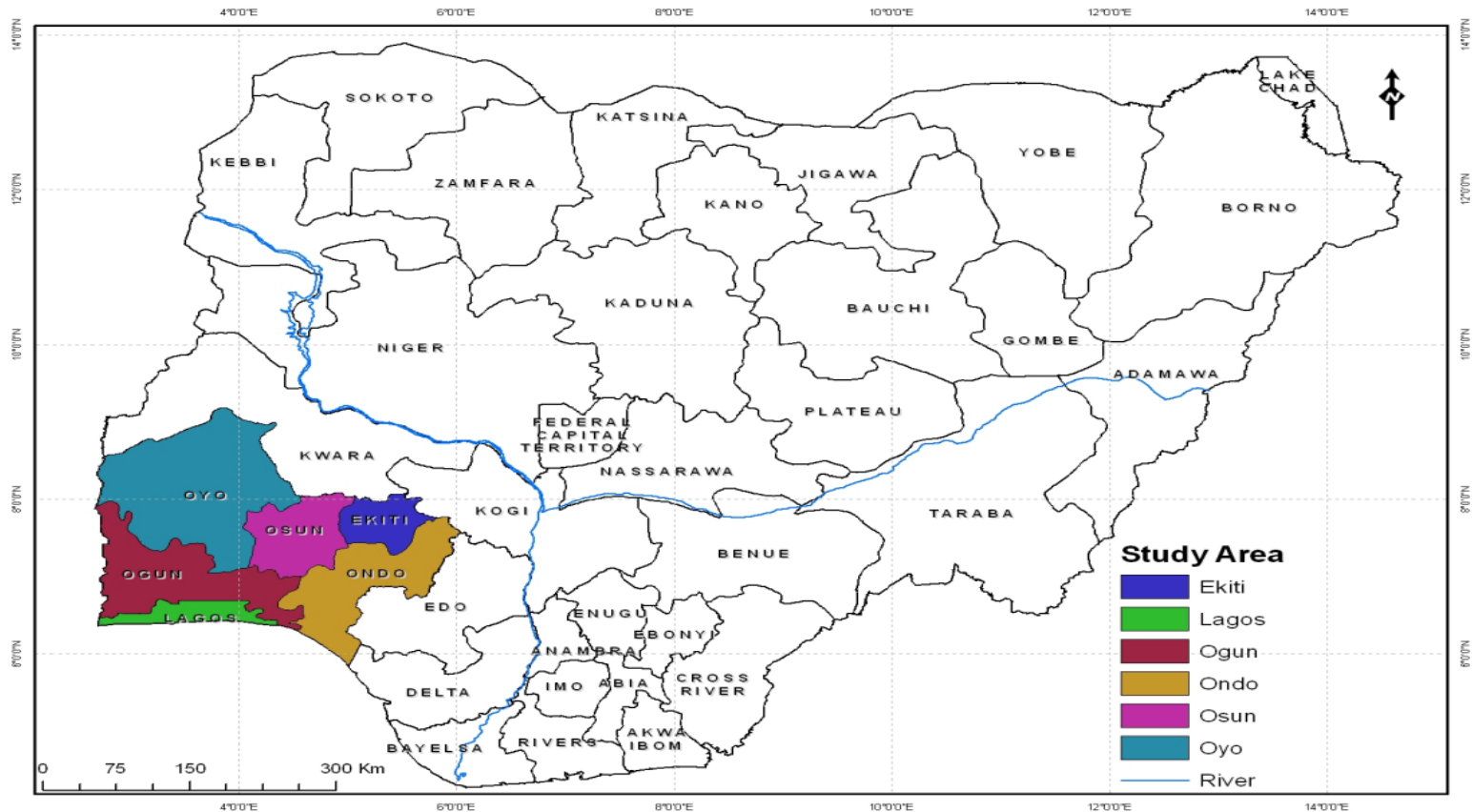
- o Occupational Therapists then, were trained abroad: UK and USA



## Situational analysis cont'd..

- o Some Occupational Therapists did not return back to Nigeria while others left in search of greener pastures, creating a vacuum
- o Presently, Nigeria has 120 registered OTAs and 86 registered OTRs.
- o There is a large concentration of Occupational Therapists in the South West

# Concentration of OT in South West Nigeria



# Occupational Therapy Education

- o Generally education in Nigeria(including rehabilitation) has continued to grow rapidly especially since Independence in 1960
- o There are 153 universities (government and private ) in Nigeria with each state having a Federal University (NUC 2017)
- o Physiotherapy a sister rehabilitation profession to OT is offered in over 12 universities in Nigeria

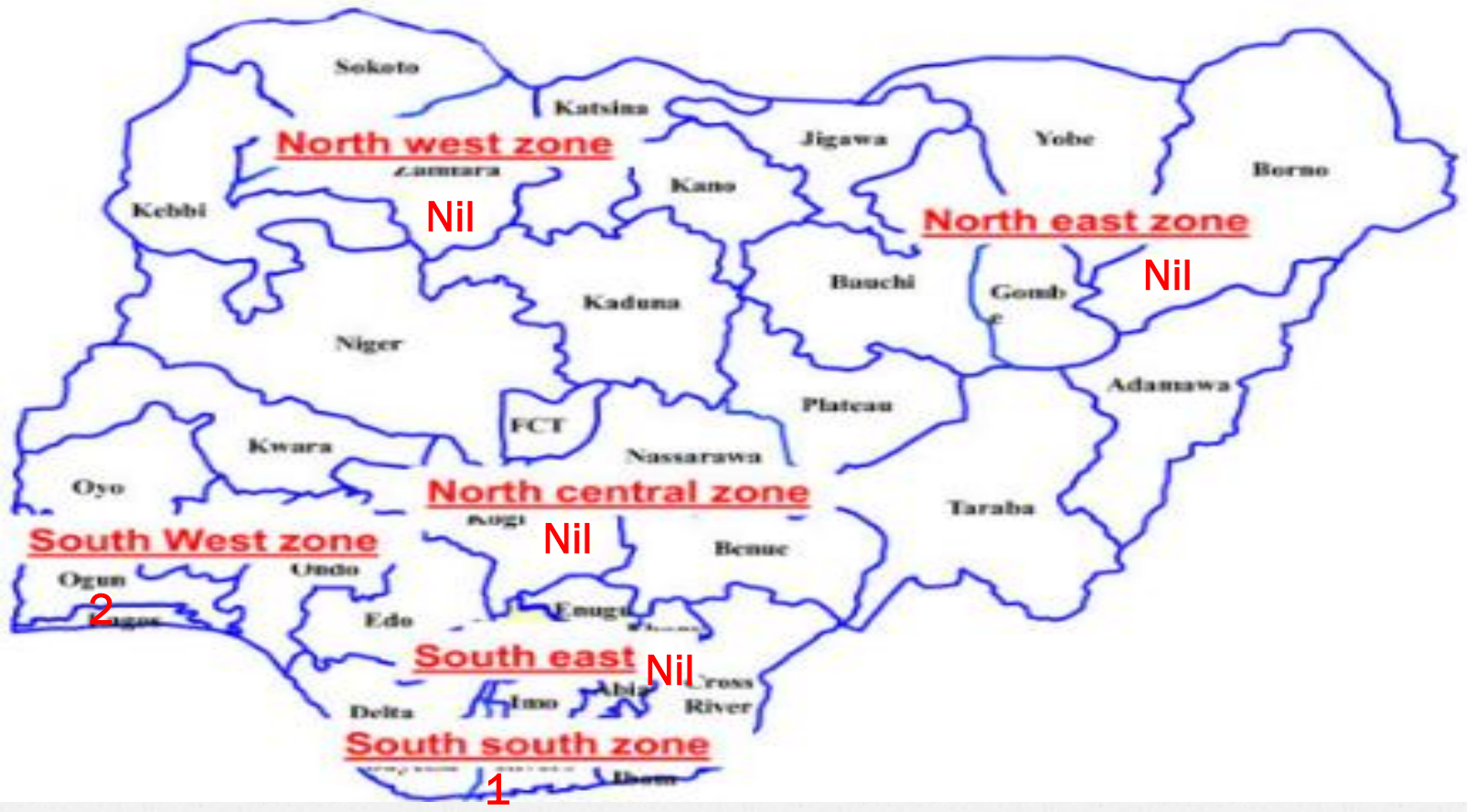
# Occupational Therapy Education

- o Same cannot be said of OT : only one university and two diploma programmes which are all in the South and are not WFOT approved .
- o There is now a huge application of Nigerian students abroad for OT education.

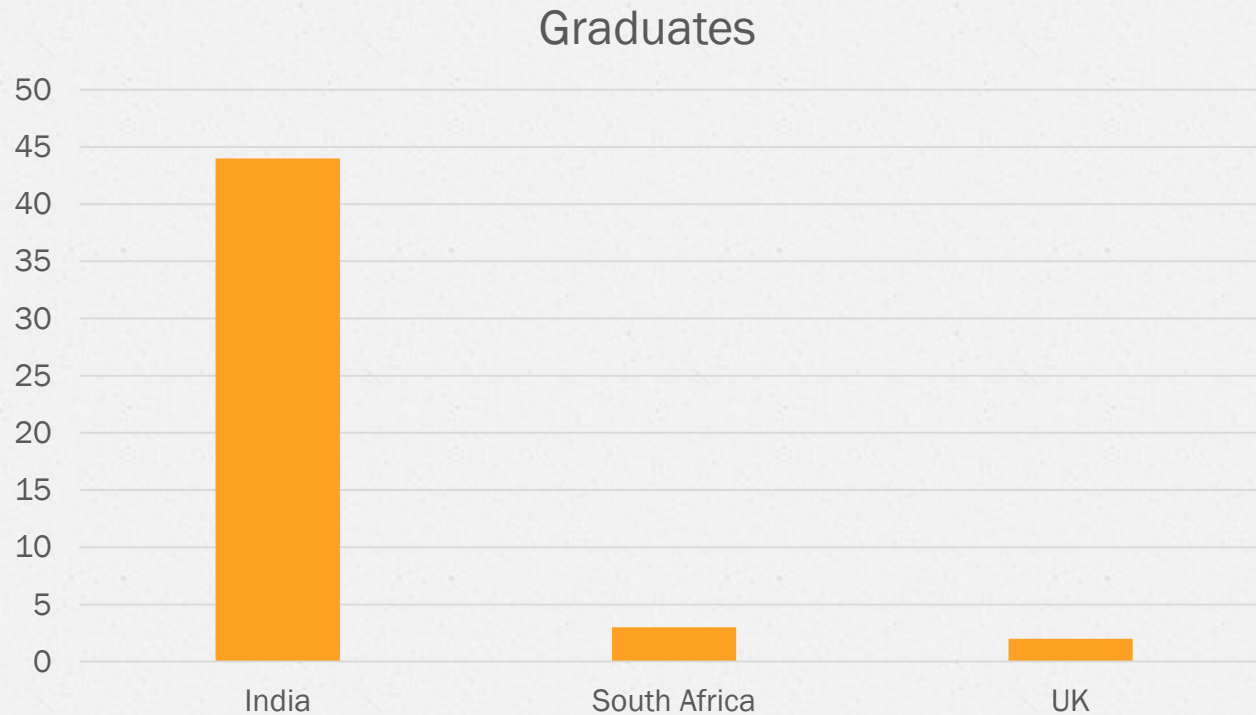
# Training Institutions Across Geopolitical Zones

South West	South South	South East	North Central	North West	North East
2	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

# Distribution of OT training in Nigeria



# Number of graduates from foreign programmes 2009 - 2018



## Reasons for the imbalance

- o Uneven spread of the few schools of OT across the zones
- o Relatively higher and more organized medical service in the western part of Nigeria.
- o Higher number of more Teaching Hospitals in the west



# Reasons.....

- o Higher educational development in the Southern part of Nigeria
- o Relatively higher awareness and appreciation of OT services in the West
- o Apparent better prospect for OT services in the West.

# Impact of the Imbalance

- o Gaps in rehabilitation in other geopolitical zones
- o Economic loss due to Medical Tourism
- o Undue competition among the OT practitioners in the South West zone
- o Lack of OT presence in other zones' health map

# Impact.....

- o Loss of opportunities for OT development in the other zones
- o Risk of complete extinction of Occupational therapy in the other zone

# Challenges

- o Inadequate schools of OT and lack of WFOT approval for the existing ones.
- o Non- inclusion of OT into the National Health Insurance Scheme.
- o Inadequate training materials and facilities.
- o Inadequate OT educators with requisite skills and qualifications.

# Challenges

- o Poor funding /lack of priority of rehabilitation in the Nigeria health system
- o Lack of Scheme of Service for Occupational therapy
- o Poor awareness and integration of OT in main stream health services in many zones

## Efforts so far...

- Commencement of Diploma and University programme
- Continuous advocacy for OT awareness and integration into the Nigeria health system

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*Presents:*

**2015**

**THEME: WORLD OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY DAY**  
**OPPORTUNITIES, INNOVATIONS & CHALLENGES IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY IN NIGERIA**

**Sub. Theme:**

**INTER-PROFESSIONAL COLLABORATIONS  
AND THE ROLE OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY**

CAPACITY BUILD  
CURRICULUM





ENGAGING THE SENATE  
DURING A PUBLIC HEARING ON  
NHIS





OT PARTICIPATION IN  
COMMUNITY SERVICE

# Opportunities for OT development in Nigeria

- o Young and motivated enrollees for OT programmes
- o Established health institutions with potentials for OT practice
- o Increasing numbers of universities with potentials to run OT programmes
- o WHO renewed commitment to Rehabilitation 2030
- o Passage of Disability Bill in Nigeria
- o Huge investment into health in Nigeria by donor agencies / Foreign Aids

# Prospects of OT Development in Nigeria

- o Improved quality of rehabilitation service
- o Reduction in Medical Tourism
- o Realization of the Sustainable Development Goals
- o Realization of Rehabilitation 2030
- o Reduction in unemployment among graduates.
- o Reduction the Nigeria health sector
- o Reduction in urban-rural migration
- o Improve quality of life for the citizens

# The Clarion Call



# Clarion Call

- o International support/ collaboration e.g volunteers, supports for training facilities
- o Mentorship
- o Scholarship
- o Knowledge Transfer

# Conclusion

- o Occupational therapy in Nigeria is emerging though not without many challenges
- o Consistent concerted efforts and international collaboration are urgently required to foster the desired development.



THANK YOU