Building Statistics Capacity in Nigeria Through the LISA 2020 Program

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Abstract
In recent years, there has been a large disparity in the teaching and learning of statistics in Nigeria and other developing countries compared with that in developed countries. This deficiency exists despite the introduction of new strategies and innovations for research-based statistics courses. To increase the global impact of statistics and build statistics capacity in developing countries, Virginia Tech’s Laboratory for Interdisciplinary Statistical Analysis (LISA) is partnering with universities and institutions in developing countries to establish a network of 20 statistical collaboration laboratories in developing countries by the year 2020. This program is called LISA 2020. The ultimate plan is to provide leadership by mentoring statisticians through the creation of these laboratories, helping to foster research development in the respective institutions through the use of statistical thinking and data science. In this paper, we discuss the challenges and opportunities of building statistics capacity in Nigeria through the creation of the first statistical collaboration laboratory in the LISA 2020 Program, the Laboratory for Interdisciplinary Statistical Analysis and Collaboration (LISAC) at Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), Ile-Ife, Nigeria.

Keywords: statistical collaboration, statistical consulting, statistics laboratory, capacity building.