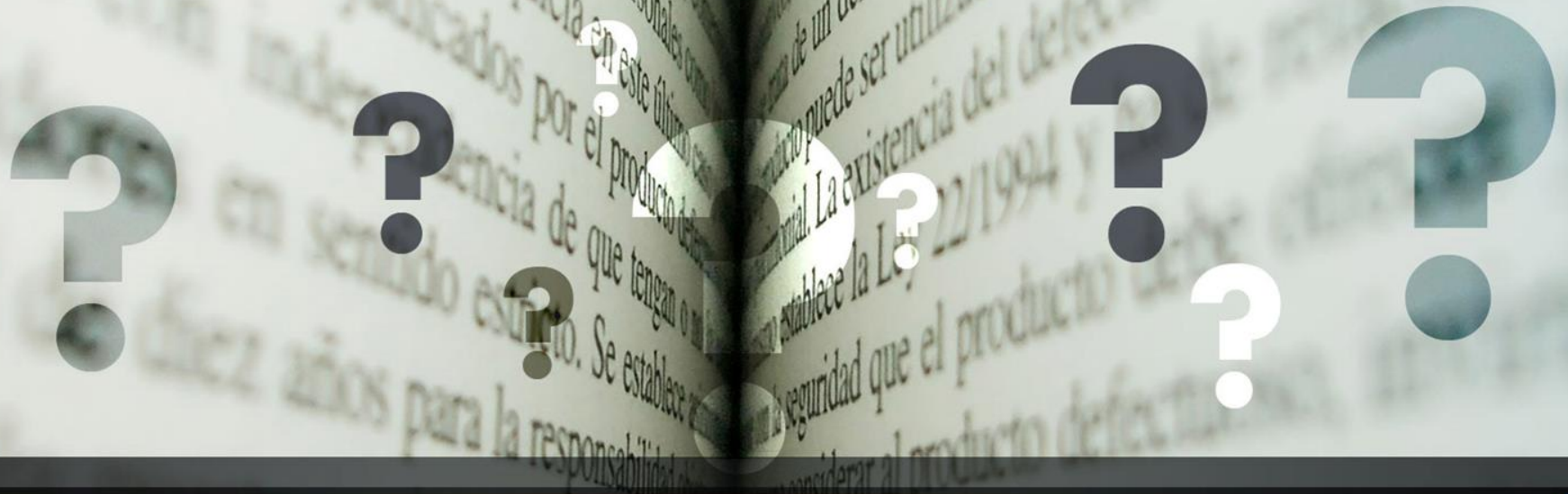


# Distance Education and Human Resource Development in PNG



D. Harinarayana, UPNG  
G. Albert Prabhakar, UPNG  
S. Venu Madhav, UPNG

# Higher Education Impacts

- ✓ Quality of Labor and Employment
- ✓ Social Mobility
- ✓ Personality Development
- ✓ Empowerment of Women
- ✓ Economic Growth
  - GER of 30% is threshold level to sustain high rates of growth of an economy
- ✓ Who should provide a public good?
  - State or Market

# PNG: Select Key Features

- ✓ 50% Population under 19 years of age
- ✓ Workers growing at 6.7% per year
- ✓ 6<sup>th</sup> Fastest growing economy (6% average growth for 2002-2015)
- ✓ GER in Higher Education 2%
  - Male 3%
  - Female 1%

# Status of HE in PNG

Public Universities	4
Private Universities	2
State Colleges*	25
Private Colleges*	10
Together supply <b>6000</b> spaces	

\* Mostly in Technical & Vocational Education

# Market for HE in PNG

Supply of spaces	6000 per year
Grade 12 leavers	24000 per year
Potential unmet demand	18000 spaces
Plus second chance learners	Left over space in previous years, Returnees to learning
Post secondary absorption in HE declined from 50% in 2001 to 22% in 2013 (Kavanmur et al.)	

# Way Forward

- ✓ GER Target **11.46%** by **2024** (To achieve middle income status by 2030)
- ✓ Student places required to reach GER Target:
  - **80,840** (2019)
  - **124,369** (2024)
- ✓ Quantitative expansion required
  - One University for every **100,000** population in developed country like the USA.
  - Presently PNG has one University for every **1.3 mn** population.
  - **80** Universities needed in PNG.

# Targeted Shares (in %)

	2019	2024
State Universities	33.3	27.4
Private Universities	8.8	9.7
PNG Open University	19.3	20.9
State Colleges	28.4	30.4
Private Colleges	10.2	11.6
Share of State Institutions	81.0	78.7
Share of Private Institutions	19.0	21.3

**Source:** National Higher and Technical Education Plan; 2015-2024

# PNG Vision 2050

- ✓ First Pillar out of Seven envisages
  - Human Capital Development through
    - Easy affordable access to education for all citizens
- ✓ Hence, Provide cost-effective Higher Education



# Cost of Higher Education in PNG

- ✓ Unit cost **K 40,000** per student in University education
- ✓ Add private costs
  - Maintenance of the Students
  - Opportunity Costs

# Alternatives ?

## a) Private Sector:

- ✓ Promote Privatization of Higher Education
- ✓ Commodification of HE, Marketization and Pricing of education
- ✓ State to subsidise/incentivise investments into Higher education
- ✓ Investment in HE - First Generation - Financing
- ✓ Promote institutional lending to finance student fees and maintenance
- ✓ Promote Public-Private Partnership

# Alternatives ?

## b) Open Distance Learning

### ✓ Philosophy

- Life long learning needs
- Access at affordable cost with quality
- Institution as a place of arrangement
- Learning independent of place, pace & time
- Recognize life cycle of a Program
- Response to market & social needs

# Alternatives ?

## b) Open Distance Learning

- ✓ Increase access through flexible & easy entry
- ✓ Offer education at the doorstep of the learners using ICT
  - To improve quality of education
  - To enable interactive learning
  - To realize outcomes relevant to labor market
- ✓ Adopt convergence model for learning experience on University campuses
- ✓ Charge affordable fees as fixed costs are low and unit cost of education is low
- ✓ Promote equity and gender balance

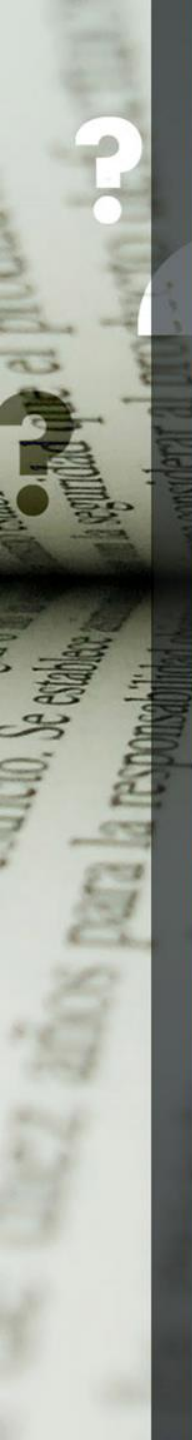
# Access through ODL in PNG

State Universities	4
Private Universities	1
State Universities supply	3000* spaces
Private Universities supply	400* spaces
ODL share in access	36%

\* Estimated

# Viable Way Forward → ODL

- ✓ Provide state/promoter funded fee reimbursement to learners
- ✓ Provincial Governments to strengthen Infrastructure for ODL delivery.
- ✓ Explore ways to use infrastructure of schools/colleges when they are free.
- ✓ Build ICT infrastructure for ODL delivery and support services.



**THANK YOU**