ICT use in Distance Learning at Tertiary Level

Experiences from the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN)

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Social Distancing to Distance Learning

Teaching & learning that combines elements of face-to-face and online learning

Brick & Mortar
(Classroom)

Online Learning
(Computer)

Face-To-Face

Blended Learning

Virtual (online)

Course content and learning are presented in person

—Fixed physical location — in school, classroom, lecture hall
—Face-to-face interaction between teacher and student

Teaching and learning using a computer and web technologies

—Location is determined by the learner
—Self-learning, through self-instructional materials

Instruction independent of time, location, pace and space.
Essential Requirements

Devices
- Mobile phone
- Tablet
- Laptop
- Desktop

Almost all learners have mobile phones

Data
- Interconnectivity
  - Modem
  - Wi-Fi
  - Broadband

Internet penetration in Africa is estimated at 39% (Nigeria 61%)

Digital Literacy
- Computer basics
- Word processing
- Use of Internet
- Digital citizenship

Platform
- Course and User Management
- Two-way conversations and feedback

• Creation and management of interactive communication media
A critical component for success in online course delivery is the level of support available.

Technology Support
- Access to devices and data
- Logins and passwords
- Resolve technical challenges
- Guidance on the use of technology
- Inclusivity - i.e. support for the blind, deaf etc

One-On-One Advising
- Access to counsellors for guidance
- Help in identifying human and material resources for learning
- Solving instructional & psychological problems

Administrative Support
- Orientation to the Online Learning Experience
- Registrations
- Effective communication protocols
- Study Centres

Academic Support
- Two-way Interaction & effective feedback
- Group & Collaborative work
- Monitoring and analysing student learning behaviours
Open & Distance Learning (ODL) in Nigeria

- 172 tertiary institutions in Nigeria currently catering for over 4 million students
- At least 30 universities have sought for ODL licences
- **NOUN** – Nigeria’s flagship single mode ODL institution with 84 Study Centres
  - First admission in 2003 with 50,000 students now has about 600,000 students
  - Has a Directorate of Learning Content Management (DLCMS)
  - Centre of Excellence for Technology Enhance Learning (ACETEL)
- NOUN hosts **RETRIDOL** - Regional Training for Open and Distance Learning

Nationwide surveys in 2018 & 2019 revealed that
- 53% students between 20 – 30 years
- 79% of students use smart phones, 39% have laptops & 9% use tablets
- 68% use internet at home and 22% at work
- 92% use the internet regularly
- 95% have at least one social media account
- Positive attitude by student and staff towards online learning
Wide Range of Online Interactions

• Use of Video Conferencing Tools Zoom & Google Hangouts
• Discussion Forum
• Online Chats
• Student-Student Interactions
• Student-Teacher Interactions
• Recorded facilitation sessions
• Instructional Videos
• Interactive course materials
• Social media integration
• Computer based assessments
## COVID-19 Education Responses

### Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Education has set up a Task Team responsible for a coordinated education response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Ongoing effort for students in higher institutions to receive lectures via the Nigeria Television Authority (NTA) and the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN)
- All HE tasked to activate virtual learning environment

### National Open University
- Lecturers/Facilitators & IT support staff to be supported with stipends for data, devices & backup power
- Digital device acquisition scheme and sponsored data for students
- Partnerships with telecommunication providers for functional internet connection for learning
- Community study centres for closer support to students in rural areas
- Interactive Course materials being developed and uploaded to the LMS for students' access
- Learning Resources developed for off-line access by learners
- Short course on IT essentials to be launched

### ACETEL
- 5-day virtual training on creating interactive eLearning Content
- Interactive Course materials being developed and uploaded to the LMS for students' access
- Learning Resources developed for off-line access by learners
- Short course on IT essentials to be launched
Recommendations

- Consider the use of Open Educational Resources to enhance course content
- Lecturers should be encouraged and supported to take relevant online courses
- Massive training of teachers to teach at a distance and in the use of e-Learning
- Robust Policy Direction from local and federal governments
- Attention should be given to quality assurance
- Student and lecturers should be assisted in acquiring devices, reliable internet and power backups
- Take Cyber Security seriously

“Change The Way You Look At Things And The Things You Look At Change”

-Wayne Dyer
Thank You