

Teacher Education in Open and Distance Universities in Africa

Abstract

The principal objective of open/distance learning (ODL) is the provision of greater and unfettered access to education which could be delivered to the learner at home and his convenience, and thereby giving a second chance access to those who would have otherwise lost such opportunity. It should use media that could communicate effectively to learner without feeling the absence of a physical human facilitator as the learning materials are meant to be very self-explanatory. The issues in ODL teacher education include among others the following: ODL's marketability in the current knowledge commodity world of ours; putting in place formidable learning materials must be very self explanatory; application of modern ICT facilities to facilitate instructional delivery to learner much by self-effort; the application of contemporary evaluation techniques in ODL; effective management of ODL; provision of Support Service and Counselling; admissions process, record management and client services. It is thus imperative that ODL teacher education mode must be well-packaged for marketability to its clientele for sustainability and must also be well-managed in all ramifications: the admissions process, evaluation, its information base, its staff must be managed to conform to the total quality management principles and practices.

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