Chapter 21
The Challenges of Technology– Enhanced Instructional System in Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

The development and deployment of innovative Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in higher education is being given prominent attention today. This is because of its pedagogical and socio-economic forces that include; greater information access; cost effectiveness, enhancement of collaboration and cooperation; and its ability to solve numerous problems confronting education in the developed and developing countries. It is also essential as it allows learners to acquire and exploit information within every sphere of human activities. However, the integration of technology into teaching and learning is facing some problems and challenges. This case presents an overview of the integration and application of modern technologies in providing higher quality teaching/learning in the Obafemi Awolowo University, (OAU), Nigeria, how to solve the problem of providing equitable access to education and how to improve the teaching and learning of Science and Technology in Post Basic Institutions using Technology Enhanced Instruction. It also highlights the problems, challenges and the lessons learnt from such innovation using OAU Ile-Ife as a case study of Nigeria.

Table 1. A customer service approach to Distance Learning. Sources: cited from Aworuwa (2009)

Year	Total no of students who sat for UME	Total students admitted	Percentage
2000-2001	550,399	60,718	11%
2001-2002	749,727	9,769	12.1%
2002-2003	994,381	51,845	5.2%
2003-2004	1,o46,950	104,991	10.1%
2004-2005	841,878	122,492	14.5%

BACKGROUND

In Nigeria today, there are greater demands for university education. Every year there is a greater number of students than all the universities in the country can admit. According to Aworuwa (2009) quoting from the OAU Vice Chancellors speech to the Nigerian Tribune of 1st August2008, of the 30,000 qualified students that applied for admission, only 4,000 could be offered admission (0.13%) due to the problems of poor facilities, lack of space, shortage of academic staff, and poor funding. The situation is the same all year round. Aworuwa lamented the denial of educational access to thousands of qualified students (See Table 1).

Other problems facing university education in the country include overstretched facilities due to exponential increase in students enrolment, falling standard, high rates of drop out and failure, decreasing attractiveness of academic career to young and intelligent scholars .In addition to the above are other challenges of brain drain, obsolete equipment, negative attitude on both the part of the lecturers and students and poor economy.

Obafemi Awolowo University is one of the first generation universities established in1962 as University of Ife. It is situated in Ile-Ife (The Cradle of Yoruba Civilization) occupying a vast expanse of land totalling 11,861 hectares. It has 13 Faculties, 2 Colleges and 92 academics Departments. According to Impact (2008, P.1), "the mission of the University is to create a teaching and learning community for impacting appropriate skills, knowledge, behaviour and attitude, advance the frontiers of knowledge that are relevant to national and global development, engender a sense of selfless public service and promote African cultures and traditions." The vision of the university is of a top rated University in Africa, ranked among the best in the world and whose products occupy leadership position in the public and global economy. To achieve this, the University is to harness ICT, modern Technologies and economic strategies, build strong partnerships and linkages within and outside world and whose research works will contribute a substantial proportion of innovations to the Nigerian economy. It was based on the mission and vision statements that made the University seeks the assistance of The Carnegie Corporation and the World Bank to embark on eight projects in the first cycle: enhancement of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) capability and application to distance learning so as to solve the problems of equitable access to quality higher education. In order to solve this problems, Obafemi Awolowo University, decided to apply modern technology (ICT) which led to the inauguration of a committee that came up with a university ICT Policy. The policy includes: developing ICT to serve as the backbone of OAU Ile-Ife development strategies in the 21st century. It involves upgrading the current capability, integration and application of ICT to teaching – learning, research, health and other strategic area. Development of ICT and research

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