

A New Learning Experience of Training Using BUOLE as an Online Platform in a Low Resource Setting: A Pandemic Experience of Busitema University Uganda

Alice Nakiyemba, Dean Faculty of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences, Busitema University,
Uganda

Abstract

The abrupt COVID-19 which affected the entire world with many deaths did not leave the Higher Education Institutions the same. There has been transformation in many aspects but especially the mode of teaching and learning. This paper analyses the case of Busitema University with the use of BUOLE as a learning management system which was adopted during the pandemic to teach blended courses. The University has undergone through new reforms of developing online blended courses but this requires stable and adequate internet connectivity. The University has been challenged with negative attitude of some students and staff towards ODeL, limited financial resources to conduct trainings, Poor internet connectivity because the University is rural based, low bandwidth and limited teaching space due to social distancing. Despite these challenges, more than half of the staff have been able to develop and upload blended online courses on the BUOLE platform, more graduate students are enrolling to the University because learning online has created a balanced between studies, work and family. Lessons to learn there is always need to prepare for the unknown and need to focus on investing in infrastructure requirements for the learning platform.