

# **Implementing Online Learning at a Ugandan University: Challenges, Lessons Learnt and Innovation**

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## **ABSTRACT**

As covid-19 pandemic spread throughout the world, most governments adopted many interventions to minimize its spread. The most famous of these was the lockdown. Uganda first locked down its economy on 19<sup>th</sup> march 2020 with a number of measures contained in the Presidential directives. One of the directives was to immediately close all educational institutions for some days. It was hoped that after a short period, they would re-open. However, it was not until after a year of closure that learners were fully allowed back into schools. During the lockdown, educational institutions were advised to exploit technology for teaching purposes. For primary and secondary schools, radio and TV stations were used to deliver lessons, though with many challenges. However, universities were left alone. They had to navigate through a rough turbulent period using the Open Distance eLearning (ODEL) strategy with many challenges. Therefore, it is important to understand how this affected teaching and learning, the challenges faced and the lessons learnt by universities in developing countries such as Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST).