

University Lecture Delivery beyond the Pandemic: A mixture and flavour of Virtual to Blended Learning at the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria

Bolanle Akeredolu-Ale, Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria

ABSTRACT

The Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), Nigeria is a leading Specialized International Institution for learning and research, with a reputation for excellence across a broad range of fields encompassing Agriculture, Sciences and Engineering. For the 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 academic sessions, the University had an average of about 16,500 students and 670 teaching staff for each session. After the nationwide-imposed lockdown was lifted, the resumption of academic activities became a challenge. There was the need to maintain prescribed health protocols. The University resolved that densely populated lower-level courses (with more than 1000 students) was to be delivered online while final year courses were to hold in the auditoria with social distancing. Consequently, out of the 1,132 courses floated in the first semester of each session, 531 were delivered virtually. Feedbacks from students and staff about our voyage into virtual learning in the face of COVID-19 has been quite positive. Both staff and students are now comfortable using an LMS and reaping its benefits. In line with the broad vision of the University, the University is now positioned to implement blended/online learning.