1. Open and Distance Learning in Uganda

Open Distance Learning (ODL) in Higher education

Uganda’s higher education system is one of the oldest in East Africa with Makerere University providing education to the entire region. Uganda has been a regular contributor to COL’s budget and a strong supporter and beneficiary of COL activities as seen from the various implementing institutions below:

(a) Uganda Management Institute (UMI)

Uganda Management Institute (http://www.umi.ac.ug/), a degree awarding tertiary institution, uses satellite video conferencing to deliver short training programmes from across the globe.

In collaboration with the Commonwealth of Learning (COL), 45 staff at UMI have been trained on Designing and Teaching Online Courses and there are plans for COL to partner with UMI in ODL policy formulation and implementation.

(b) Makerere University

Makerere University (http://www.distance.mak.ac.ug) pioneered in the provision of formal ODL higher education programs since 1991 with intent to increase access to university education for working adults.

(c) Kyambogo University

Kyambogo is another Public University (http://www.kyu.ac.ug/) which offers distance learning programmes for in-service primary school teachers and special needs education teachers. The University also hosts the African Virtual University (AVU) ODeL Centre which runs a degree programme for science teachers using both print and Moodle platform to disseminate learning materials to students.

(d) Makerere University Business School (MUBS)

Makerere University Business School (http://www.mubs.ac.ug) is a degree awarding tertiary institution. Currently under its Faculty of Vocational and Distance Education, it offers undergraduate programmes in Business Education and Commerce, using distance learning
methods (print and online modes (model platform)) and has plans to substantially expand its distance learning programme to more than 4,000 students.

**ODL has been implemented in other sectors such as:**

**Health and Agriculture:**

(a) New approaches to Health Communication have been implemented with Radio Apac. Radio Apac, a community station founded with COL’s support in 1999, together with district authorities, local health services and civil society groups, is putting citizens’ health and the districts health services on the local agenda.

**Agriculture** using E-Learning has exposed various Farmers in Uganda to different technologies to support farming practices and access to finances.

2. **NATIONAL PRIORITIES**

1. Launching of the Open University of Uganda.


3. Promoting the use of ODL methods in continuing professional development of medical personnel, agricultural extension workers and farmers, teachers at all education levels, and other professional groups.

4. Encouraging innovative use of ICTs in ODL provision.

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