

PERCEPTIONS OF OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNERS TOWARDS MODULES ON CD: THE ZIMBABWE OPEN UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE

Dr. Thomas Musankuleni Kaputa & Leonard Mpezeni
Faculty of Applied Social Sciences, Zimbabwe Open University
ZIMBABWE

ABSTRACT

The use of Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) has taken centre stage in the provision of learning and teaching materials in Open and Distance Learning (ODL) institutions. ODL institutions have recognized the value and economics of ICTs in improving and revamping the learning experiences of both learners and lecturers. In keeping up with these trends the Zimbabwe Open University (ZOU) introduced modules on compact discs (CD) format in 2009 to its learners in almost all of the faculties. There are challenges and opportunities this development offers, which need to be recognized and taken advantage of in an African environment. This study, therefore, is a response to that move as it seeks to find out learners perceptions towards the modules in the CD formats so as to improve the development of learning materials in an African context. Using a qualitative paradigm a descriptive survey design was employed to seek the perceptions of learners in the departments of Special Education, Psychology and Counseling on using modules on CDs. An open-ended questionnaire was used to gather data from all the participants. Interviews were held with key personnel within the ZOU to verify the data. The study recommended the orientation of students in the new technology and the use of a multimedia approach.

Keywords: Information Communication Technologies, Open and Distance Learning, Modules, Compact Discs, Learners.