

# E-Learning and Mobile Learning: Some Highlights on Innovative Delivery Methods in Continuing Education

**By Prof. Tolly.S.A.Mbwette**  
**Vice Chancellor, OUT & President ACDE**  
**E-mail: [vc@out.ac.tz](mailto:vc@out.ac.tz) or**  
**[tsambwette@yahoo.com](mailto:tsambwette@yahoo.com)**

# Presentation Outline

- Adopted definitions and introduction of e-learning, m-learning and continuing education
- Areas of application of e-learning at OUT
- Challenges faced in using new technologies
  - Quality Assurance
  - How to ensure participation by academic staff
  - Professional Development by Academic staff
  - Collaboration with ACDE member universities

# E-Learning

- The simplest definition of e-learning is “The process of learning that is electronically facilitated”.
- The electronic materials can combine a variety of sources including DVDs, CDs, You tube, Blogspots, Video clips as well as linkage to a host of social networks.

# M-Learning

- Wikipedia therefore defines M-learning as “Any sort of learning that happens when the learner is not at a fixed, pre-determined location, or learning that happens when the learner takes advantage of the learning opportunities offered by mobile technologies. M-learning covers learning with portable technologies including but not limited to hand held computers, MP3 players, Notebooks and the mobile phones.

## M-Learning Contd...

- The most diverse assumption about M-Learning is when one considers the dual mobility of both the learners as well as the instructor or better the learning facilitator.
- Other definitions link M-Learning to the portable devices only which is only one factor amongst the many possible mobile aspects of the learning process.

# Continuing Education

- Continuing education refers to that type of education that has to be periodically imparted to learners in order to update their work skills or techniques. This is essentially taken to be synonymous to what is often referred to as life-long learning.

# Areas of Application of E-Learning

- All Undergraduate Courses to be reduced from about 1000 to 500 by 2014.
- Currently about 100 courses are in e-learning format.
- Many short courses are also in e-learning format.
- Course conversion to e-learning format is carefully entrenched in the staff OPRA targets.

# Challenges Faced When Using New Technologies

- Quality Assurance
  - IUCEA framework used in preparation of courses. TCU checks compliance at national level.
  - Computerisation of records necessary as it eases controls.
  - Use biometrics to identify students whenever needed.
  - Conversion of student IDs to Smart cards.



# How to ensure Effective Participation of Academicians

- Each is given targets linked to the targets given to their heads.
- They are also given incentives for good performance
- They have to be made aware about their e-learning strategy as well as other related documents.
- Academicians must have good rapport with the Instructional Designers.

# Professional Development of Academic Staff

- Some academic staff study distance education courses at certificate or diploma level using e-learning.
- Some staff members are studying courses from elsewhere using e-learning.
- There are indications that there will be further intensification of contacts with other ACDE member universities using e-learning.