

Conference Theme:

Provision for Children and Young People themselves.

Topic:

“Broadening access to Education in Namibia through a range of innovative ODL Programmes and delivery methods at the Namibian College of Open Learning.”

Based on the mandate to

“provide opportunities for adults and out-of-school youths to upgrade their professional and vocational skills, to contribute toward the social and economic development of Namibians through open and distance programmes and to address the diverse educational needs of adults and out-of-school youth”,

the Namibian College of Open Learning (NAMCOL), through a culture of quality and professionalism aims to realise these objectives. The objective of the Poster Presentation will be to outline all the programmes of NAMCOL in realising this mandate, through a variety of innovative delivering methods and tools.

The College, being the biggest ODL institution in Namibia, caters for secondary education in grades ten and twelve, a range of professional programmes which address the needs in community development, youth development, and local government. Through its programmes, it seeks to open up opportunities and widening access to education to those that has been left behind by the former educational system, and also to redress the inequities in education.

Since the establishment of NAMCOL ten years ago, the College has accommodated a total of 245 931 learners in all its programmes coming from all wind corners of this vast country. All the Professional Programmes received full accreditation by the Namibian Qualifications Authority in November 2006. The notion of quality first time is manifested in the many mechanisms employed through external and internal audits within the College, and through the partnering with BOODOL, its sister institute in Botswana.

The College uses a variety of delivery methods and tools including face-to-face and distance education. The College has managed to build capacity in the field of ICTs, by empowering staff with skills to develop web-based lessons, write radio programmes, and to engage in the use of Open Resources to deliver on-line programmes and tutoring through networking and partnering with other institutions to achieve common goals in ODL. (331)

Cross Cutting Themes

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|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Appropriate Technologies- | Free and Open Source Resources
Library provision
Electronic and print
Mass Media
Community Radio |
| 2. Organisational development and leadership- | Developing people |

Key Aspects to consider:

Broadening / widening Access:

Innovative Developments and Programmes

Quality Programmes: Accreditation Nov 2006, QA, external & internal

Providing Opportunities: (Special learner visually impaired)

Variety of delivery methods: F-F, DE, Web-based, Print, Radio, Electronic Media (Video, Audio)-

Integration of ICT`s.

Upgrading Educational levels of staff and learners

Networking

Bridging the Digital Divide

Economic and Social Development

Developing People: How? Capacity building through initiatives, workshops, and projects:

Projects: Radio Programmes, E-Learning Centre

In the abstract:

- Programmes
- New Programmes
- Web based materials
- Radio
- Achievements and successes

NOLNet Education Radio Broadcasting Project

The Ministry of Education, you might be aware, has initiated a project in 2004 to enhance education radio broadcasting in the country. Given its importance, the Education Radio Broadcasting initiative has now been included in the Education and Training Sector Improvement Programme (ETSIP). NAMCOL has been mandated by the Ministry to manage the implementation of this initiative and several milestones have been recorded to date.

Chief amongst these are the construction of a pre-packaging recording studio at the College's Head Office in Katutura and the training of a core group of staff from various Ministries and educational institutions to enable them to write, record and produce educational radio programmes. Colleagues

from NAMCOL; the Polytechnic of Namibia; UNAM; NIED; Ministry of Health and Social Services; Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture as well as the Directorate of Adult Education in the Ministry of Education has since produced a series of 112 programmes that's being broadcast on NBC National Radio, UNAM Radio and Radio Live in Rehoboth.