NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

E-LEARNING TECHNICAL AND ORGANISATIONAL HYPES AND REALITIES AT ZIMBABWEAN STATE UNIVERSITIES

BY

STUDENT: **ANANIAS MAWIRE (N0125105F)**

SUPERVISORS: **MR S. NLEYA**

MRS S. MOYO

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Abstract

In order to establish utilisation, needs and related factors for successful e-learning and its application to students and lecturers at Zimbabwe state universities, an empirical research was conducted through a survey. Questionnaires comprising of both semi-structured and open ended questions were given to randomly selected one hundred respondents from four universities. Interviews were then carried out with critical e-learning stakeholders at the universities like information and communications technology staff members. The statistical package for social sciences (SPSS 16.0) package was used to analyse the research data. The findings from the research showed that 50.7% rarely log-on, 25.4% never log-on and a mere 23.9% frequently log-on to the e-learning systems despite 83.6% respondents having access or owning a computer, laptop or a smart-phone. The findings further revealed that most universities have invested and are equipped with e-learning technical support such as, infrastructure and operational platforms although they neither provide institutional support nor employ appropriate frameworks and policies needed to further the quality and enhancement of e-learning offerings. In this study we recommend the inclusion of e-learning systems induction and more aggressive marketing strategies for all stakeholders. We further suggest an adoption of an e-learning framework designed with the Zimbabwean environment in mind.