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Creating Rich Environments for Active Learning

The 45-minute session will engage the listeners in the constraints and challenges of open and distance learning (ODL), especially in Africa and show how lecturers strive to ensure that their learners are provided with stimulating learning experiences, which are at par with that of their counterparts in face-to-face institutions. It will show how they are continually evaluating the effectiveness of their study materials and their assessment strategies and redesigning them to create efficiency and effectiveness in the learning experiences. It will also examine the various strategies in both teaching and assessment that the lecturers apply and the various teams that each lecturer needs to work with to create rich environments for active learning.

The objectives of the presentation is to show how the lecturers in an ODL environment must continuously conduct research and use other peoples research findings and expertise to enhance learning. The paper discusses the ODL issues that inform the process of learning and assessment. It examines the role of Information Communications and Technologies in this process and the success and constraints that this provides to teaching and learning. This paper will involve the audience in comparing the experiences of the scholarship of teaching and learning in ODL with that in the face-to-face environment.

The attendees will expect to hear and learn how interactivity is created between teacher and students and among the students in a practically non-interactive environment to enhance learning. The paper will also examine the various interventions that the institution has put in place to ensure that the academia and others are equipped to handle the tasks within the ODL environment.