

Focus of My Research

My academic area of specialisation is Open and Distance Learning and my research interest focuses on two major interrelated areas in this mode of educational delivery. They are: (1) Policy, Model Options and Programme Implementation and (2) Student Support Services. Distance Education, as a form of non-traditional education, has now been accepted as a standard and alternative educational delivery, complementing the conventional delivery mode, in Nigeria. However, the fundamental areas in Distance Education, which ought to provide in-depth background knowledge for effective institutional planning and management, has been minimally researched. Such areas include the theoretical foundational basis, model, underlying principles, as well as support services for students studying through this mode. Some of my researches have been able to establish the theoretical constructs, models, and the basic principles which should guide policy planners, managers, and administrators of Distance Education Institutions in Nigeria.

Similarly, with a detailed understanding of some correlates predicting Distance Education Students' persistence and academic success, provided in one of my studies, my subsequent researches have been able to establish the instructional delivery mechanisms which could help in improving Distance Education Students persistence and academic success especially in critical thinking disposition, reflective thinking capability, problems solving, and metacognitive learning skills. The recommended delivery mechanisms included the game-show approach, emotional teaching and practice, as well as the infusion of andragogical and constructivists principles into instructional design and delivery pattern.

Furthermore, arising from some perceived weaknesses in the contemporary institutional practice and implementation of Distance Education Programmes in Nigeria, especially in relation to media and instructional technology, quite a number of my research have focused attention on new directions for re-engineering a strong institutional framework for implementation of Distance Education Programmes in line with global best practices. Such new directions included the recommendation that managers and practitioners of Distance Education Institutions should encourage the design and creation of computer-supported environment, based on the principles of constructivism, rather than that of objectivism, so as to facilitate improved teaching and learning with special emphasis on knowledge as construction of learners rather than learners' possession. This recommendation arose from my research findings which confirmed the efficacy of conducting teaching and learning to distance learning students through electronic mails.