CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF ONLINE LEARNING IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WITH SPECIFIC FOCUS ON LIBERIA

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How did online learning originate in Africa?

- It was originated in 1976 in South-Saharan Africa by the National Teachers Institute, Kadauna in Nigeria.
- The intention was to remove barriers and constraints that may prevent learners from accessing and succeeding in quality, lifelong education.
- It courses were predominantly through the print media.
- It helps encourage studies at home and help combat educational problems in the Nation.
- It geared towards educating growth competitiveness and reaching social and economic impact.
The advantages of online learning in developing countries?

- Developing nations will respond to increase demands of students.
- It reduces costs of education and increases participation of many students regardless of their locations.
- It provides students the opportunity to learn at their own pace.
- It creates an environment for students to collaborate on an assigned project without being at one locations.
The disadvantages of online learning in developing countries?

- Majority of the students attend public or government schools due to high tuition fees.
- Students and instructors will need to take fundamental computer courses.
- Institutions lack relevant infrastructures.
- The country lacks of high bandwidth connections.
The challenges of online learning in developing countries?

- Learning can be difficult for students who are not familiar with the technology involved.
- Students do not have direct interaction with instructors and classmates.
- It can be difficult for students who are undisciplined or unmotivated.
- It involves spending on training of staffs and new technologies.
INGOs making efforts to administer online learning in developing countries.

- **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) 1945–Present**
  - Is working to improve the development of African countries educational sectors.
  - It has been encouraging African governments and development partners to maintain education as one of its priorities.

- **African Virtual University (AVU) 2003–Present**
  - Makes efforts to increase access to quality higher education and training through information communication technologies (ICT).
  - To build sustain and enhance the capacity of African tertiary educational institutions.
  - To implement research and evaluation activities on the African Continent.
Liberia was founded July 26, 1847 by free African slaves from the United States.

It’s a country in West Africa bordered by Sierra Leone to its West, Guinea to its North and Ivory Coast to its east.

Monrovia, is Liberia capital city

Tropical, humid and raining season is the climate in Liberia.

St John river, St Paul river are the largest river in Liberia

Nimba Mountain is Liberia biggest mountain.

Iron ore, Timber, Diamonds, Rubber, are Liberia natural resources.
Political History of Liberia

- Americo-Liberian rule (1847–1980)
- The Country covers an area of 43,000 square miles.
- Suffered 14 years of civil crisis from 1989–2003
- President is the head of state.
- Ellen Johnson Sirleaf a Harvard-educated banker and administrator is the current and 24th president of Liberia. 2006–Present.
Statistics relevant to Online learning

- Poverty Rate: 80%
- Unemployment rate: 85% and 201st compared to rest of the world.
- GDP: 8.3% and 11th compared to rest of the world.
- Electricity: 335 million kWh (2010 est.) 168th compared to rest of the world.
Potential is huge for Liberia educational system for online learning and technologies in the emerging years. Challenges: Are also huge and more so in Liberia due to destroyed infrastructure, including the educational sector, which was badly affected due to fourteen years of civil war.

Questions?
References


