



COMMONWEALTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS FORUM 2015

Utilizing connectivity – Health

Technology for Innovative education of Health Professionals

By:

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14TH – 16TH SEPTEMBER 2015, SAFARI PARK, NAIROBI, KENYA.

Brief of Outspan Medical College



- Was started in 2009 with a vision of being the college of choice in training globally competitive quality medical professionals.
- The college had only three programs then, a number which has grown to ten with a current population of 890 students and 63 teaching staff.
- The college began the journey of innovatively overcoming challenges through embracing eLearning in mid 2014.

Outspan Medical College



Introduction and background



Challenges

- Emerging diseases
- Dynamic nature of medicine
- Limited time for curricula implementation
- Shortage of staff
- Workload

Note: These challenges have driven innovation in medical education with approaches like blended learning.

Globally, these challenges are overcome through education innovations:

- ✓ Use of laptops
- ✓ Mobile learning devices
- ✓ Interactive whiteboards
- ✓ Digital libraries
- ✓ e-portfolios
- ✓ Learning management systems
- ✓ Simulations
- ✓ Videoconferencing
- ✓ Virtual laboratories
- ✓ programmable and location-aware devices.

Broadband internet is a means to maximizing these education innovations

Objectives



The objectives for adopting blended learning included :

- To increase contact time for skill based training for the learners in order to attain maximum competencies in curriculum implementation.
- To increase the capacity of the institution to train more health workers at both preservice and in-service level.

Method



- Capacity building by FUNZOKenya project, led to preparation of policy documents to govern eLearning implementation, faculty members were trained and content was developed using open source courseware.
- The learning management system was customized and is hosted locally thus access is limited to college premises. In view of this challenge plans are underway to cloud with KENET.
- Both support lecturers and students undergo navigation orientation prior to start of a course.

eLearning portal



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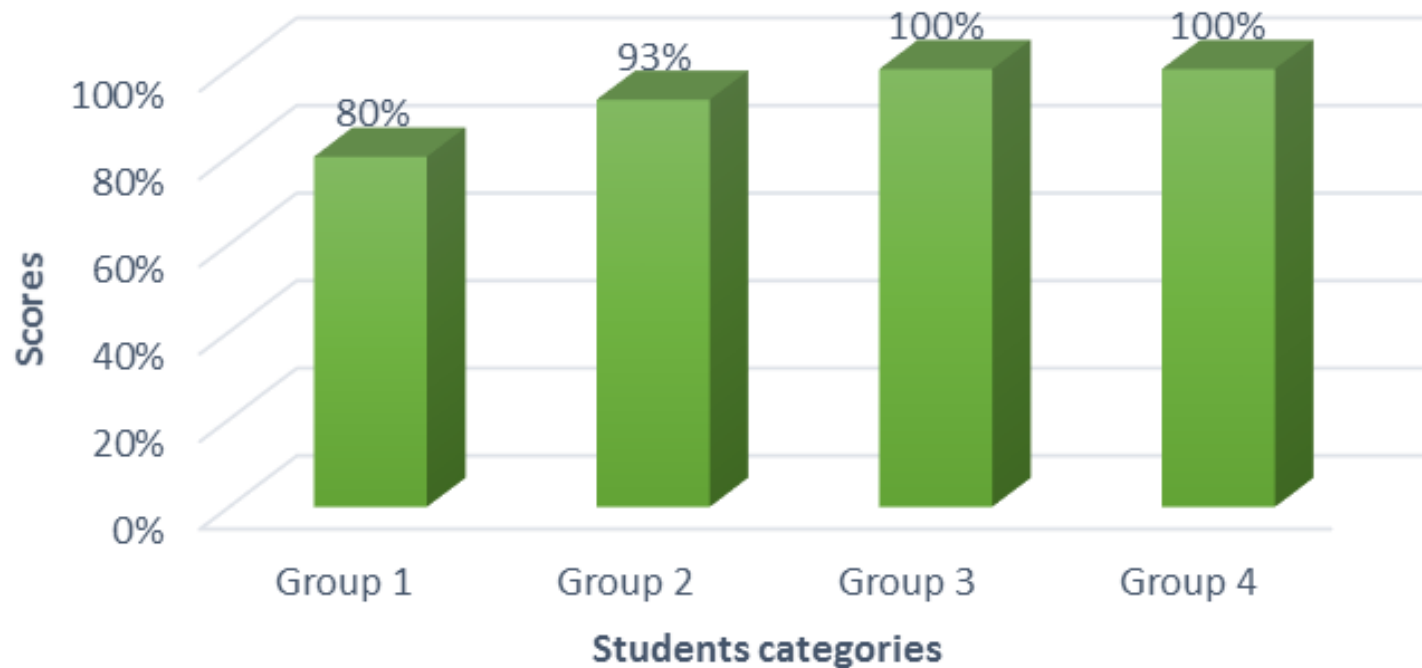
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Results



- Since the inception of the blended learning approach, the institution has enrolled 257 eLearners out of 890 in different courses.
- In addition to improved performance in courses offered in blended learning, students have enjoyed the convenience in learning.
- Delivery of eLearning has improved progressively with concurrent improvement in learning outcomes.

Performance of courses offered in eLearning

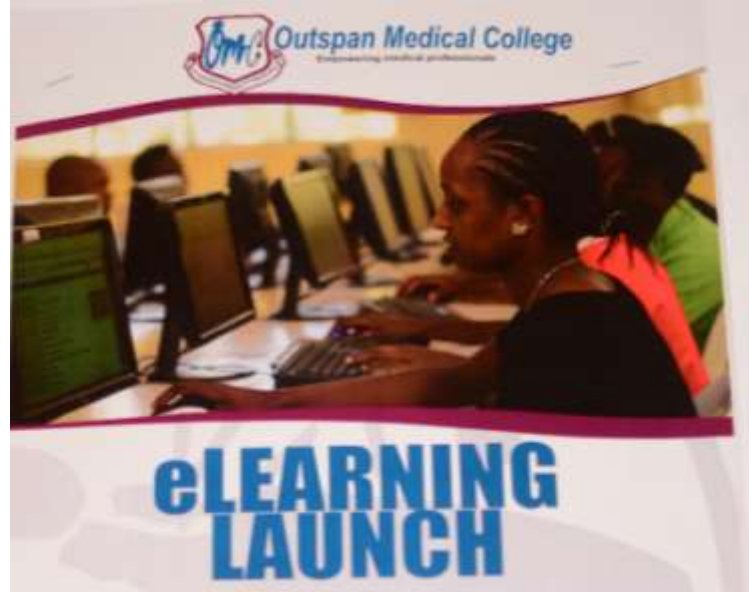




Results

- There has been observable improvement in learnt skills.
- Demand for more units on e increased following the official launch of eLearning program- LAN
- Having enrolled off college students, it is mandatory to cloud which requires faster sustainable internet.
- **However, our learner internet access while off campus is expensive since 98% have to buy 3G internet bundles from various service providers.**

eLearning launch





Implications

- With appropriate governance, capacity building and learner support, eLearning offers the most efficient and cost effective present and future way of training health workers at all levels.
- To maximize on the advantages that blended learning offers: anytime, anywhere learning among others, sustainable internet is the roadmap; a means to an end.



Implications

- Another step in this innovation is syncing of online libraries with the LMS hence improved delivery of medical education.
- This will enable health workers update their knowledge on emerging trends as well as keep abreast with rapid changes in medicine as they offer services to the public.

Regardless of resource endowment of an organization, a country or individual, the will drives achievement. However, resources hasten the journey.

Thank you

