

SUB THEME: DISTANCE AND E-LEARNING

**TITLE: DISTANCE AND E- LEARNING EDUCATION PROGRAMMES OFFERED IN
KENYAN UNIVERSITIES: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

AUTHORS: IDDAH WAYUMBA & WINNIE NDETA

ST.PAUL'S UNIVERSITY

P.O BOX PRIVATE BAG, 00217

LIMURU, KENYA.

EMAILS: iwayumba@spu.ac.ke & wndeta@spu.ac.ke

Telephone numbers: IDDAH W. - 0721106581

WINNIE N. - 0723637824

DISTANCE AND E- LEARNING EDUCATION PROGRAMMES OFFERED IN KENYAN UNIVERSITIES: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

There has been an increase in enrolment by students in the university in the distance and e-learning programs. Electronic learning is education based on modern methods of communication including the computer and its networks, various audio-visual materials, search engines, electronic libraries, and websites, whether accomplished in the classroom or at a distance. Generally speaking, this type of education is delivered through the medium of the World Wide Web where the educational institution makes its programs and materials available on a special website in such a manner that students are able to use and interact with them with ease through closed or shared, networks, or the Internet, and through use of e-mail and online discussion groups. It has been argued that E-learning assists in the transformation of the educational process from the stage of learning by rote to one characterized by creativity, interaction and the development of skills. The student, in e-learning, is able to access educational materials at any time and from any place, thereby transforming the concepts of the educational process and learning to go beyond the limits imposed by traditional classrooms into a rich environment in which there are numerous sources of learning. At the end of the day, students graduate with a degree just like their counterparts who attended physical lectures and questions arise as to whether the exposure gained in physical lectures can equal the distant learner's efforts. The purpose of the study is to investigate the effectiveness of distance learning as a method of teaching and learning at the university with a view of coming up with better strategies that can be implemented to help fill in the gaps created by lack of physical contact between the learner and the lecturer for the module.