

## DILEMMA OF USE OF MULTIMEDIA IN THE BACHELOR OF EDUCATION COURSE

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## Introduction

- Multimedia delivery is part and parcel of D.E 21<sup>h</sup> century educational programs
- Multimedia refers to highly sophisticated technology such as CD-Rom, internet websites
- Other common technology in education include television, video, telephones fax machines and computers
- Multimedia improves the pedagogy of teacher education and that of the participating teachers.

## Background and context

- B. Ed. program has run for more than 10 years
- Despite the fact that most of the students are from upcountry the major form of delivery is print
- Hardly any multimedia is used in the delivery system
- Teacher education would need to use multimedia if it is to be effective

## Background cont.

- No one particular media can live up to the expectations of the 21<sup>st</sup> century teaching/learning processes
- Audio and video tapes are cheaper to produce and use in teaching and learning but they are not sufficiently used, is it attitudinal
- Use of multimedia in teaching/learning is underdeveloped

## Problem of the study

- Despite a decade of B. Ed. teacher Education Programs at Makerere University, there is no concerted effort to use multimedia in the teaching/learning processes
- Lack of use of multimedia create a picture of "not an easy road" to upgrade in Makerere University

## Problem cont..

- Even where multimedia devices are in place, students and tutors do not use them, so is it attitudinal?
- No study has been done to relate provision of learner support to factors that affect the whole process of use of multimedia
- There is no framework in place to assist the learner, the tutor and the administrator to utilise multimedia as they carry out their day to day operations

## Purpose of the study

- To devise ways and means of improving learner support through provision of elaborate learner support system inclusive of multimedia delivery systems

## The objectives of the study

- Establish what multimedia support systems for B. Ed. teachers were in place.
- Assess the extent to which the upgrading of B. Ed. teachers and tutors utilised the multimedia support available
- Find out the gaps that needed to be closed if multimedia was to improve on the delivery system of the upgrading B. Ed. Teachers
- Identify the dilemmas of use of multimedia in the B. Ed. teacher training programs

## Research questions

1. What multimedia support systems for teachers at Makerere University are in place
2. To what extent do the upgrading of B. Ed. teachers utilise multimedia
3. What are the dilemmas of use of multimedia in B. Ed. programs of Makerere University

## Methodology

- A descriptive cross sectional survey research design
- Made use of qualitative and quantitative methods to determine usage of multimedia in the B. Ed program
- Data obtained through questionnaires, interviews and focus group discussions combined with observation of the study centre facilities.

## Findings

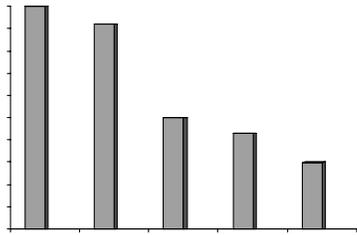
- A rich multimedia in place; of radio facilities, print materials, mobile phones, television, computers, and internet facilities at the disposal of students and tutors but very much under utilised

## Findings Contd...

- The study materials written by lecturers for example can immediately be converted into portable document file (pdf) format and the student can get a variety of books on just one multimedia CD.
- Students can access the same materials from a networked database which is internet based.

### CONCLUSION: Students access to media as per administrators' views

Percentage access to media as per administrators responses



### Findings Cont....

- Students have access to at least more than one media but multimedia is not utilised in the delivery systems (Radio, mobile phone, television, computers)
- Utilisation of multimedia is a function of what students and teachers have access to but also how fast and convenient it is to them.

### Findings cont.

There are many benefits in the use of multimedia

- Helps clarify difficult areas 80%
- Reduces boredom and keeps a student interested 60%
- Helps those who cannot attend face to face sessions 55%
- student gain skills in use of computer 70%
- Helps student search for more information especially when internet is used 45%.
- Students hand in better researched assignments 35%

### Findings cont.

- No concerted effort to teach students on how to use multimedia as they study
- Resources must be found to equip centres with computers television sets fax machines and other gadgets necessary for use in delivery of programs
- Despite the existence of computers in study centres students do not use the facilities. (15% use them for typesetting, 2% for sending course work, 30% for surfing)

### Findings cont.

- Students are not motivated to use the ICT because the dilemma is tutors do not have enough competence in the development of multimedia programs to guide the students as well.
- Students would like to practice but the digital telephone lines and modern switching equipment are not available in the country side leading to very high usage costs

### Conclusions

- Multimedia is not widely used because both students and tutors have limited access to ICT equipment and facilities and to the web (internet)
- The undeveloped nature of telecommunication impacts on the use of multimedia as the B. Ed. program is developed.
- The competence of tutors and students as far various packages for multimedia delivery are concerned is still lacking and this limits development of multimedia courses and support programs.
- Available resources and equipment is minimal to allow for chatting and computer conferencing as well as audio and video conferencing.
- Students in reality have limited time to spend on the study centre where possibly all equipment ought to be, because of personal family problems and this leave them to use mostly print as they study.

## Conclusions contd..

- The whole issue of using multimedia to improve on delivery system is a dilemma. So great impacting factors of resources, competences, infrastructure and attitude prevent a systematic development towards that area greatly.

## Recommendations

- B. Ed. students and tutors should be equipped with basic skills of computing.
- Makerere University should provide internet services to all outreach centers and network with other institutions to enable students access multimedia devices as they study.
- easy access to computers and internet services should be a pre-requisite for admission to the B. Ed. Programs in future

## Recommendations contd..

- students should be encouraged to form chat groups and to use e mail to send their assignments ( hand in assignments online)
- use of multimedia would go a long way to cultivate a "culture of care" which is the business of any support for students system.
- This study revealed that constructivist-based teaching strategies with the use of multimedia in elementary teacher education improve the attitudes of the teachers toward using these strategies in their future classroom.?