Education Initiatives for a changing Africa: Teacher Education in Sub-Saharan Africa (TESSA)

DETA
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Teacher Education – Analysis of the current situation

• Emphasis on initial training
• Primacy of campus-based training
• Imposition of traditional models in school-based part time programmes
• Individualistic approach
• Little attention to classroom competencies
The Response

R&D programme of activities led by the Open University
Improving the quality of, and access to, teacher education

- school based teacher development
- capable of replication at large scale
- focussed on pedagogic practice
- exploiting the potential of ICTs including OERs

Started 2005
International network of 20 + institutions
Working in 12 countries in Sub Saharan Africa
TESSA

- OER Tool kit
- Implementation and Support
- Research

TESSA Open Educational Resources

For Primary:
- 75 structured study units
- Localised in 13 versions
- Multiple formats

For Secondary:
- 15 study units (science)

For Teaching Assistants:
- 4 study units

Teacher Educator Guidance / TESSA Handbook
TESSA OER 2011

- 19 programmes enhanced with TESSA OER (including B Ed, Diploma, Certificate and unaccredited CPD programmes)
- 700 teacher educators
- 400,000 teachers
Forms of use of TESSA

- Highly structured
- Loosely structured
- Guided use

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<th>Form of use</th>
<th>Highly structured</th>
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<td>Characteristics</td>
<td>Selection of set of TESSA activities by lecturers. All students carry out this set of activities.</td>
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<td>Access to TESSA materials</td>
<td>New teacher books produced and distributed.</td>
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<td>Example</td>
<td>National Teachers’ Institute (Nigeria)</td>
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<td>Open University of Sudan</td>
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<td>Open University of Tanzania</td>
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### Form of use | Loosely structured
---|---
**Characteristics** | Lecturers select appropriate TESSA activities for their course. Lecturers use in a variety of ways.
**Access to TESSA materials** | Website  
Printed individual TESSA study units
**Example** | University of Education at Winneba (Ghana)  
Makerere University, Uganda

### Form of use | Guided use
---|---
**Characteristics** | Students browse the TESSA website or TESSA CD and select TESSA activities. Teachers outside programmes work collaboratively to select units
**Access to TESSA materials** | Website or CD
**Example** | Egerton University with ‘outreach’ work  
OLA with the University of Cape Coast (Ghana)
Learning benefits arising from TESSA activity:

- with teacher educators
in programme design, for example assessment methodologies,
and in increased capacity for materials production

- with teachers
improved planning, classroom skills and competencies including more
interactive lessons; enhanced teacher confidence and reflection

‘I’ve always been proud of TESSA, as a principle because it ... awakes in [teachers] their ability to become creative, that’s what I say about TESSA, and innovative...’
Sister Elizabeth, OLA teacher training college, Ghana

www.tessafrica.net