

Zimbabwe Open University Examination as an Assessment tool: Opportunities and Challenges in Languages and Media Studies

By

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Abstract

Assessment is one of the most important aspects in the learning process of every programme. It entails the critical tools that lecturers employ to evaluate the degree of effective learning within the student. It makes the learner stay focussed throughout the learning period at the same time assisting the lecturer with the much needed feedback and direction. The paper focuses on examination as an assessment tool. It demonstrates that an examination is a major part of every academic learning process as success and failure of learners is judged by one's performance in it. This places the assessment tool at the centre of the whole learning process as both lecturers and students perform their duties throughout the academic year with the ultimate examination in mind. This paper also delves into the opportunities and challenges associated with the effectiveness of this assessment tool in open and distance learning. It relies upon some qualitative analysis of data attained through administering questionnaires amongst Zimbabwe Open University (ZOU) Masvingo region's languages and media studies lecturers and students. Findings from the study indicate that there are both opportunities and challenges that are associated with this tool of assessment in open and distance learning (ODL). Challenges include the unavailability of the necessary resources. Among other things, the study recommends that ZOU avails exam tables to individual candidates as hard copies or electronically.