BEST PRACTICES OF TVET CENTRES AMID COVID-19 PANDEMIC:
A Case of National Board for Technical Education, Kaduna Nigeria

A WEBINAR PRESENTATION FOR SESRIC

By:

Dr. Masa'udu Adamu Kazaure, *mni*

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY,

National Board for Technical Education;

Kaduna - Nigeria

Pre-Covid-19 Measures

As far back as 2016, TVET Sector in Nigeria commenced the implementation of Open Distance and Flexible eLearning (ODFeL). This was informed based on the need to expand access to TVET in view of the large number of secondary school leavers seeking for entrance into our tertiary institutions.

Pre-Covid-19 Measures Cont'd

The sector cannot cater for up to 50% of those wanting to enroll. As a result, NBTE went into partnership with private organization towards the success of the project. The highlights of the achievements include:

i. Setting up of a National Open Distance and Flexible eLearning Steering Committee and setting up same in partner institutions

ii. Visitations to 29 TVET institutions for audit visit to ascertain their readiness. This took more than 6 months to complete.

Pre-Covid-19 Measures Cont'd

iii. Training and orientation of staff on eLearning while the trained staff replicated same in the selected TVET institutions across the six geopolitical zones. The institutions cascaded same locally as a way of creating awareness on the need to adopt eLearning. This was held between 2017 and 2018.

iv. The Board and partners visited two major indigenous telecommunications giants in Nigeria (Globacom and Airtel) to see possibility of partnership in providing needed infrastructure to drive eLearning.

v. The Board developed implementation strategy and a National Open Distance and Flexible Learning Policy in collaboration with the Commonwealth of Learning (CoL).

Post Covid-19 Measures

Rationale for the ODFEL in TVET Sector

With the recent outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the world, it has become more pertinent that the e-learning strategy is needed to help focus resources including ICT infrastructure, manpower development and administrative service support.

Post Covid-19 Measures Cont'd

The key pointers for change include to:

- increase capacity to maximise the benefits of current and emerging technologies

- allow different modes of delivery and extending access especially to girl child through scholarships

- increase student expectations of technology

- enhance the student learning experience

- develop new and review existing TVET curricula for national and global relevance using collaborative tools

Post Covid-19 Measures Cont'd

- develop new and review existing TVET curricula for national and global relevance using collaborative tools

- provide a rich Virtual Learning Environment with a range and quality of teaching resources

- access the resources of an increasingly webbed world

- develop more flexible and accessible ways of working

- provide high quality education for students with disability

Post Covid-19 Measures Cont'd

- increase support for student learning including choice of approach, help with revision and retention.

- facilitate communication and encourage creativity

- engage with the wider world through Transnational Education and programme exchange

Based on audit inspection conducted between June, 2016 and July, 2017, the following institutions are being considered for the commencement of the programme:

S/N	Name of institution
1	The Polytechnic, Ibadan
2	Federal Polytechnic, Ado-Ekiti
3	Kwara State Polytechnic, Ilorin
4	Auchi Polytechnic, Auchi
5	Federal Polytechnic, Idah
6	Federal Polytechnic, Nasarawa
7	Polytechnic, Federal Bida
8	Plateau State Polytechnic, Barkin Ladi
9	Federal Polytechnic, Bali
10	Federal Polytechnic, Mubi

S/N	Name of Institution Cont'd
11	Ramat Polytechnic, Maiduguri
12	Federal Polytechnic, Damaturu
13	Kano State Polytechnic, Kano
14	Hussaini Adamu Federal Polytechnic, Kazaure
15	Federal Polytechnic, Kaura Namoda
16	Umaru Ali Shinkafi Polytechnic, Sokoto
17	Kaduna Polytechnic, Kaduna
18	Yaba College of Technology
19	Federal Polytechnic, Nekede-Owerri
20	Osun State Polytechnic, Iree
21	Federal Polytechnic, Oko
22	Federal Polytechnic, Ilaro
23	Federal Polytechnic, Ede
24	Akanu-Ibiam Federal Polytechnic, Unwana
25	Imo State Polytechnic, Umuagwo
26	Ogun State Institute of Technology, Igbesa
27	Mai Idris Aloma Polytechnic, Geidam

i. With the advent of COVID 19 and shutting down of all institutions in the country, the Federal Ministry of Education directed that all institutions to continue teaching and learning virtually.

ii. Consequently, the Board trained some selected staff of TVET institutions on the use of Open Educational Resources.

iii. Similarly, the Board currently is collaborating with the Commonwealth of Learning in the virtual training of our staff on planning and implementation of MOODLE LMS which will be cascaded to other TVET institutions.

iv. The Board is also currently collaborating with CISCO in training of over 100 NBTE and TVET staff virtually on Cyber Security. The training which will last for 13weeks commenced in the last week of May, 2020. This is especially critical in view of transitioning to virtual learning which has lots of security challenges.

Currently, various institutions have commenced the engagement of their students virtually through various medium and the Board is working out guidelines that will ensure Quality Assurance and Standards of Teaching and Learning.

Challenges:

The major challenge bedeviling the virtual learning in our institutions include internet and Local IT infrastructures.

As a way of tackling the challenges in the interim, the most institutions have commenced using the most common tools using mobile devices to reach out to students since at least 80% of students have access to these tools and devices.

Also, considering the peculiarities of TVET which involves hands on training, there is need for simulators that could be used virtually by online students especially those in the field of engineering.

Way Forward

The Board will explore ways to collaborate with relevant stakeholders in provision of required infrastructure in the short and long term.

These include:
i.   Provision of cheap and affordable data subscription plans for students and teachers;

ii. Provision of simulators and other open and proprietary software that will aid teaching and learning in the virtual classroom especially for engineering students;

iii. Training and retraining of TVET teachers (using online medium) in online teaching and learning;

iv. Development of new and review of existing policies to guide implementation of full blended eLearning.

Thank you for Listening