

**Access to Web-Based Distance Learning in Tanzania**  
**A Case of Higher Learning Institutions in Kilimanjaro Region**  
**By**  
**George Matto, Luka S Njau and Benson Ndiege**  
**Moshi University College of Co-operative and Business Studies (MUCCoBS)**  
**(2011)**

**Abstract**

The study assesses the access level to web-based distance learning in the higher learning institutions in Kilimanjaro region, Tanzania. The specific objects were: (i) To establish whether the selected institutions in the study area offers distance learning course; (ii) To identify options currently used by the higher learning institutions in the study area in offering distance learning courses; and (iii) To identify the extent that the higher learning institutions in the area of study use web-based distance learning in comparison to other options.

The study design was a cross-sectional survey. Data were collected using checklist and questionnaires supported by personal observation and formal discussion with key informants. Descriptive statistics and multiple responses were established and used to draw the implications for this study. The findings show that only the Open University of Tanzania (OUT) and Moshi University College of Co-operative and Business Studies (MUCCoBS) among the surveyed institutions offer distance learning courses, the latter offering it to a very limited number of programs. It was further revealed that none of the surveyed institutions offer web-based courses. The reasons for the surveyed institutions not to offer the web-based distance learning were lack of computers and other related facilities, lack of sufficient funds to establish and run the program, shortage of qualified experts to run the courses, unavailability of internet services to learners, unsuitable of the program to learners, computer illiteracy among learners and unavailability of internet services to instructors. To be able to put in place a sound distance learning and web-based distance learning programs, this study calls for deliberate investment in the program by the government and all other education stakeholders to utilize the convenient opportunities offered by the government and all Other education stakeholders to utilize the convenient opportunities offered by the distance education that other programs such as campus/full time programs can not suffice among Other recommendations as detailed in this report.