Examining Open Distance Learning Environments for Massive Open Online Courses

TREO Talk Paper

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Abstract

Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) are not only new models for universities to provide higher education, but also present new ways for learners to engage in Open Distance Learning (ODL). MOOCs bridge the gap between formal and informal learning and their success in African context lies entirely on significant consideration of appropriate learning designs and acquisition of right ODL environments. Right and timely ODL environments are best identified by analyzing their impact on opportunities and challenges MOOCs scholars face and we suggest that MOOCs could thrive in an environment illustrated in the Figure 1 below:

![Diagram showing the relationship between University, Industry, and E-lab]  

**KEY:**  
University ▲ Industry  
E-lab