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DIFFERENT ACCESS TO COMPUTER AND INTERNET RESOURCES INTRODUCES INEQUALITIES IN OUTCOMES FOR MASSIVE ONLINE COURSES



EDGEWOOD



HOWARD COLLEGE



MEDICAL SCHOOL



PIETERMARITZBURG



WESTVILLE

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Introduction

- NDP plans greater student enrolment
- Shift focus to postgraduate
- Strain university resources
- Thus the MOC





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Massive Online Courses (MOCs) are any higher education courses that employ technology to enable distance learning online through various modes of delivery format



- Open source learning programmes (Moodle)
- Effective in developed countries
- Developing countries show promise but lack resources

- Assess MOC efficacy in addressing NDP and UKZN goals
- Assess MOC efficacy in improving student academic performance
- Implement a blended course at UKZN
 - Social Psychology of Intergroup relations (PSYC223)



- 119 undergraduates
- 93 contributed demographic info via an online survey
 - 72 Female, 21 Male
 - Age range 19-42



- Collection period was 2nd semester, 2013
 - 2 Questionnaires
 - Attendance registers
 - Moodle logs
 - Final marks

- Dependent variable
 - final performance
- Independent variables
 - Offline lecture attendance
 - Online lecture access
 - Reading material access
 - Mode of internet connection used
 - High school preparedness
 - Techno-savviness



- Hierarchical Linear regression
- Split file
- T-tests



Key Result 1: Offline lecture attendance, online lecture access and reading access predicted final performance independently

But online lectures access and readings access showed multi-collinearity when predicting final performance ($r=0.726$)



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Key Result 2: The mode with which students accessed the online course was the biggest predictor of final performance



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Results

Key Result 3: It was not student technological competency that determined student final performance but rather student access to the necessary facilities and resources.



Implications

- MOCs offer promising opportunities to increase student enrolment.
- Better facilities and workspaces are needed, if this is to succeed at UKZN



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Thank-you

