**Transforming pedagogical practices in African higher education considering University as a social innovator: Linking society, culture and technology**

**Abstract**

Most university operate in a threefold rigid process of teaching, research and community service.Athough these are all encompassing goals, the role of the university as a social innovator is mostly alluded to rather than been clearly described. Universities have to consciously consider strategies, support structures and models for disciplines to work together in solving societal problems. Research across-disciplines, across faculties should be focused to find innovative solutions to social problems. Practicing social innovation requires visible support structures in the institution policies, curriculum, and students’ learning and pedagogical practices of the institution. All these structures should be conceived within a cultural shift towards social innovation. Care should be taken that the shift does not become a problem instead should bring a solution.

This study, which will focuses on how universities and related institutions can be used to drive social innovation. The study investigated the pedagogical and curriculum as well as general university operations regarding teaching, research and community service, whether they have any impact on social innovation. The study uses a five factor scale or framework picked from literature to assess, operations, prioritized efforts, syllabuses and any documents guiding a course of action towards community engagement.

The study takes an interdisciplinary approach, the design is an exploratory survey. The sample is drawn from the following, social work faculty, Counseling, Business school, and technology department. The data was collected using questionnaires, Document analysis and interviews of selected professionals in the university. Both Descriptive and Inferential statistical models was used to analyze the data. The results will be used to inform pedagogical practice

Keywords: experiential learning, innovation and subject comprehension, graduate employment.