



**YEEES**

Yields of Evocative Entrepreneurial approaches on Environment and Society



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**Master Grantee:** Saavi R Mwatilifange

**Research Topic:** Using the online offering of computer literacy course at UNAM to evaluate the usability of Moodle

**Research Stay:** Germany, 12. September-29. November 2018



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- My name is Saavi R. N. Mwatilifange.
- I am currently an Assistant lecturer and Computer Literacy coordinator in the School of Computing of the University of Namibia, where I teach Computer Literacy course to 1<sup>st</sup> year students who are pursuing degree qualifications in all fields.
- I would like to see myself as an academic staff who is transformed into an innovative, knowledge-based person, dynamic, responsive and a highly effective assistant lecturer and grow to become a lecturer and facilitator who will make a difference not only at the University of Namibia but globally.



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Namibia, a country in southwest Africa, is distinguished by the Namib Desert along its Atlantic Ocean coast. The country is home to diverse wildlife, including a significant cheetah population. The capital, Windhoek, and coastal town Swakopmund contain German colonial-era buildings such as Windhoek's Christuskirche, built in 1907. In the north, Etosha National Park's salt pan draws game including rhinos and giraffes.

Capital: Windhoek

Population: 2,48 million (2016) World Bank

Points of interest: Etosha National Park, Sossusvlei

Official languages: English, German

Currencies: Namibian dollar, South African rand



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The University of Namibia (UNAM) was established by an Act of Parliament on August 31, 1992 as recommended by a Commission on Higher Education. Thus, a unique confluence bound the birth of the new nation in 1990 with that of the University of Namibia.

UNAM is the largest and leading National institution of higher education in the country. It is a diverse institution with a student population from 43 countries and from all continents. Although a relatively young university, it has grown to support a student population of over 24,000 this year. (2018)



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## About UNAM:

UNAM has 12 Campuses nationwide and 7 Regional Centres

Academic programmes at the University are housed by eight faculties and five schools:

Faculty of Agriculture and Natural Resources: *School of Veterinary*

Faculty of Economics and Management

Faculty of Education

Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology

Faculty of Health Sciences:

*School of Medicine, School of Nursing, School of Public Health, School of Pharmacy and School of Dentistry (2018)*

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Faculty of Law

Faculty of Science

*School of Computing*

*School of Military Science*



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## Research Topic: Using the online offering of computer literacy course at UNAM to evaluate the usability of Moodle

- It is proposed that starting in January 2019, MOODLE should be used to implement online learning for all core courses at UNAM.
- The online offering is expected to cater for a diverse population of UNAM students, some of whom come from marginalized backgrounds and have never used a computer before. This new mode of learning needs to be considered carefully to ensure that it does not compromise the quality of skills and knowledge attained in this course. Therefore, the purpose of this research is to conduct a usability evaluation of MOODLE and to determine whether it is a suitable LMS for teaching core courses like Computer Literacy to first year students at UNAM.



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# Problem Statement

- The University of Namibia adopted MOODLE in 2015. No usability testing has ever been conducted over MOODLE at UNAM, despite the numerous studies that have demonstrated that it has major usability problems that prevent users from using it effectively.
- Usability testing attempts to systematically identify usability problems at an early stage in the implementation process, so that they can be rectified before the intervention is more widely implemented (Stiller & LeBlanc, 2006).
- With the planned introduction of online learning for all core courses at UNAM in 2019, it is important to determine whether MOODLE is an appropriate LMS for teaching core courses at UNAM
- Therefore, this study will explore the usability of using MOODLE for teaching the Computer Literacy course to first year students at the University of Namibia.



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My research stay in Germany is from, September 12th till November 29<sup>th</sup> 2018.

Being away from my office work has given me an opportunity to focus and read more and learn how other universities are dealing with online courses. This opportunity will also enhance my skills in research capacity building and as a result I will be in a position to contribute widely and be able to publish relevant articles in the field .

I would like to meet up with people that are knowledgeable in online courses, I would like to see how online courses are done from other institutions, because my research is to conduct a usability evaluation of MOODLE and to determine whether it is a suitable LMS for teaching core courses like Computer Literacy to first year students at UNAM.