

**“Enhancing Interprofessional
Collaboration and Learning for
Strengthening Primary Health Care”**

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Title	ADOPTION OF OPEN DISTANCE AND E-LEARNING (ODEL) AMONG HEALTH PROFESSIONAL TRAINEES IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID 19 IN UGANDA
Type	Oral Presentation <i>High-Quality Learning and Collaborations in the Health Workforce</i>
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Content	<p>Background: COVID19 pandemic forced approximately 1.5 billion students and 63 million educators worldwide to adopt e-learning. In September, 2020, the Uganda National Council of Higher Education laid out ODeL strategies for finalists in medical training to commence remotely during the lockdown. Therefore, this study assessed the readiness of healthcare professional trainees at Clarke International University to adopt ODeL in the context of COVID 19. Methods: A descriptive cross sectional study with both qualitative and quantitative data collection tools was conducted among healthcare professional trainees. The variable of interest was readiness to adopt ODeL based on self-reports on technology access, confidence, support and attitudes towards self-directed learning. Data were descriptively summarized and emerging themes in qualitative findings reported. Results: Of the 292 Participants, 87.8% were ready to adopt ODeL despite the lockdown. Reasons for readiness were access to: internet (75%), laptop/phone (95.7%) & technology support (57.9%). 76.7% were confident with online technology. However, 68.6% had no prior training on e-learning. 72.5% could restrain from online distractions and 67.4% had a positive attitude to undertake studies online. Qualitative findings revealed reasons for un-readiness as doubts in: data security, home and work distractions and limited online training. Conclusion: Health professional trainees require training on online systems. A high rate of readiness to adopt ODeL is an opportunity to build their capacity and close the learning information systems training gap. This will foster continuity of learning during unprecedented times of the pandemic and also strengthen the healthcare system.</p>