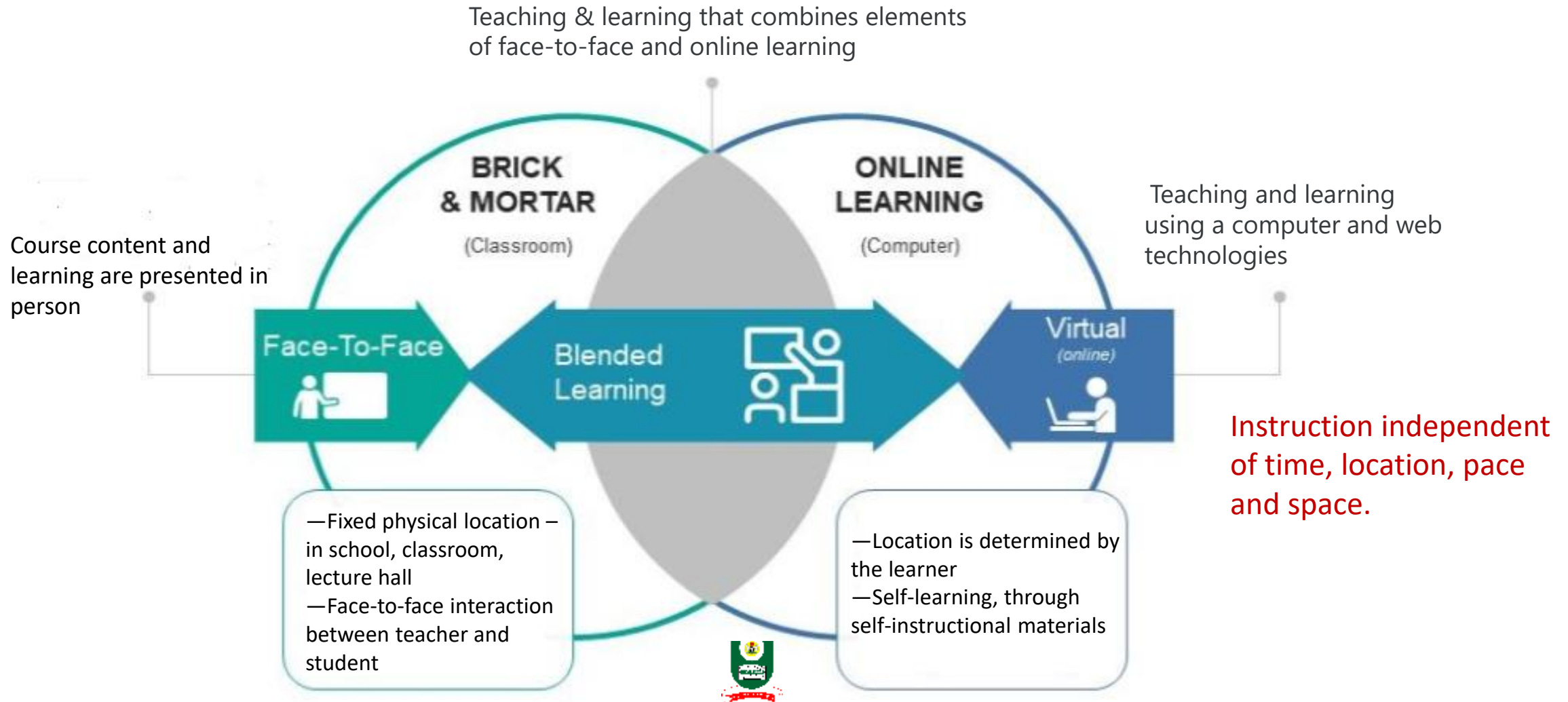# ICT use in Distance Learning at Tertiary Level

Experiences from the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN)

Presented by Adewale Adesina (PhD)

Social Distancing to Distance Learning

Teaching & learning that combines elements of face-to-face and online learning

Teaching and learning using a computer and web technologies

Course content and learning are presented in person

BRICK & MORTAR (Classroom)

ONLINE LEARNING (Computer)

Face-To-Face

Blended Learning

Virtual (online)

Instruction independent of time, location, pace and space.

—Fixed physical location – in school, classroom, lecture hall
—Face-to-face interaction between teacher and student

—Location is determined by the learner
—Self-learning, through self-instructional materials

Essential Requirements

Devices

- Mobile phone
- Tablet
- Laptop
- Desktop

Almost all learners have mobile phones

Data

- Interconnectivity
  - Modem
  - Wi-Fi
  - Broadband

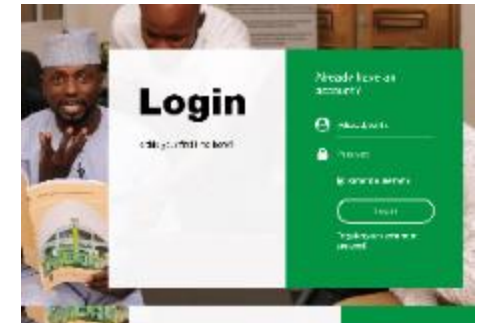Internet penetration in Africa is estimated at 39% (Nigeria 61%)

Digital Literacy

Lecturers, Learners & parents

-Computer basics
-Word processing
-Use of Internet
-Digital cititzenship

Platform

- **Course** and **User** Management
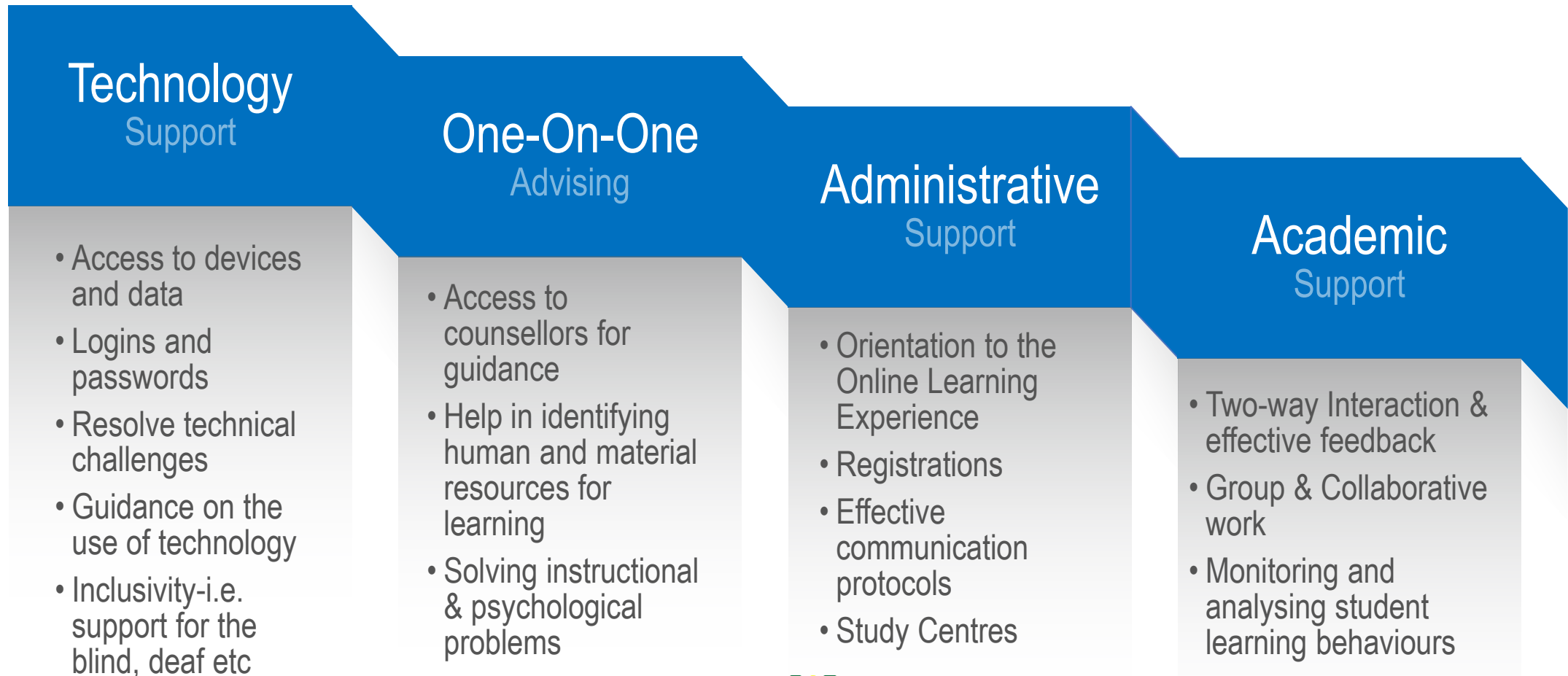- **two-way conversations** and feedback

- Creation and management of interactive communication media

Support Services for Tutors & Learners

A critical component for success in online course delivery is the level of support available.

Technology
Support

- Access to devices and data
- Logins and passwords
- Resolve technical challenges
- Guidance on the use of technology
- Inclusivity-i.e. support for the blind, deaf etc

One-On-One
Advising

- Access to counsellors for guidance
- Help in identifying human and material resources for learning
- Solving instructional & psychological problems

Administrative
Support

- Orientation to the Online Learning Experience
- Registrations
- Effective communication protocols
- Study Centres

Academic
Support

- Two-way Interaction & effective feedback
- Group & Collaborative work
- Monitoring and analysing student learning behaviours

Open & Distance Learning (ODL) in Nigeria

- **172** tertiary institutions in Nigeria currently catering for over **4 million** students

- At least 30 universities have sought for ODL licences

- **NOUN** – Nigeria's flagship single mode ODL institution with 84 Study Centres

- First admission in 2003 with 50,000 students now has about 600,000 students

- Has a Directorate of Learning Content Management (**DLCMS**)

- Centre of Excellence for Technology Enhance Learning (**ACETEL**)

- NOUN hosts **RETRIDOL** - Regional Training for Open and Distance Learning
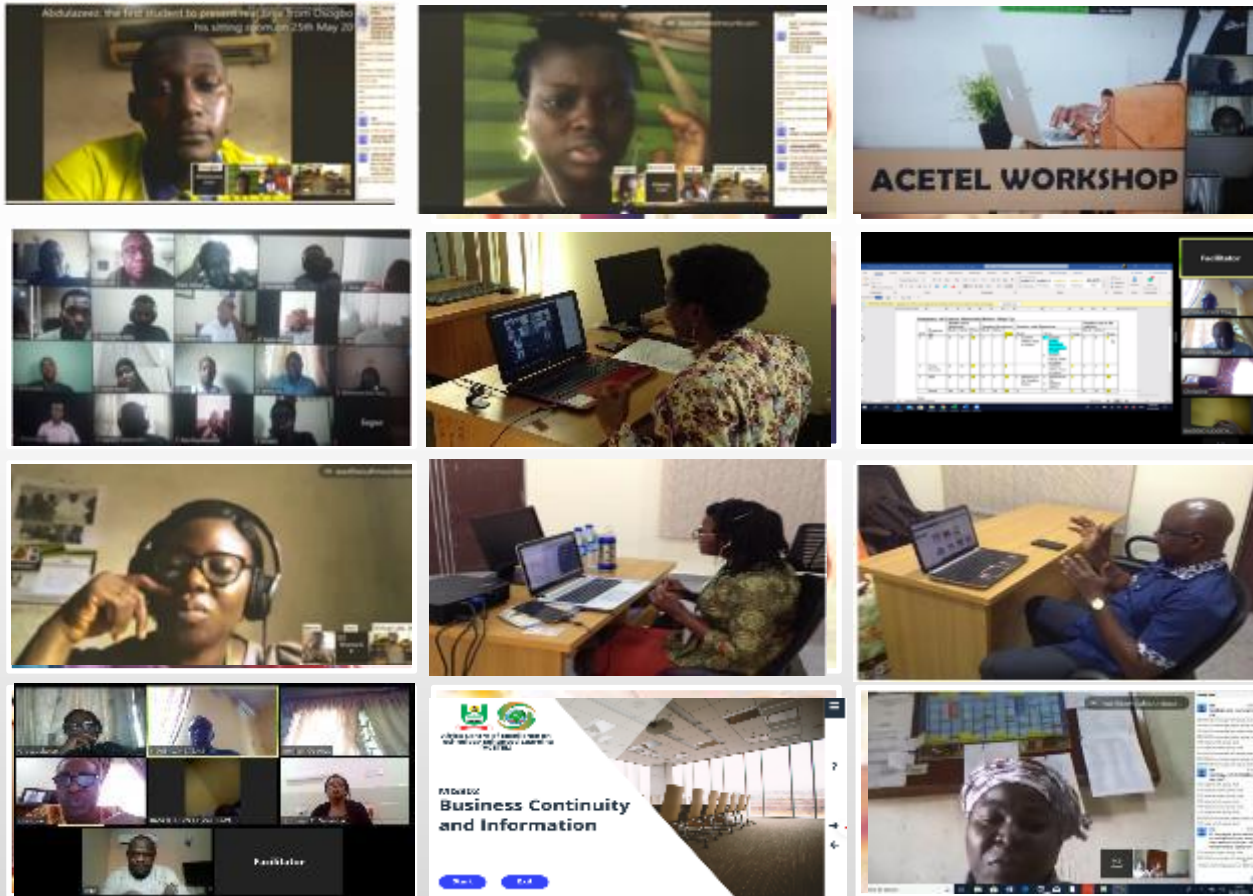
Nationwide surveys in 2018 & 2019 revealed that

- 53% students between 20 – 30 years

- 79% of students use smart phones, 39% have laptops & 9% use tablets

- 68% use internet at home and 22% at work

- 92% use the internet regularly

- 95% have at least one social media account

- Positive attitude by student and staff towards online learning

Wide Range of Online Interactions

- Use of Video Conferencing Tools Zoom & Google Hangouts

- Discussion Forum

- Online Chats

- Student-Student Interactions

- Student-Teacher Interactions

- Recorded facilitation sessions

- Instructional Videos

- Interactive course materials

- Social media integration

- Computer based assessments

COVID-19 Education Responses

Ministry of Education

- Ministry of Education has set up a Task Team responsible for a coordinated education response to the COVID-19 pandemic

- Ongoing effort for students in higher institutions to receive lectures via the Nigeria Television Authority (NTA) and the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN)

- All HE tasked to activate virtual learning environment

National Open University

- Lecturers/Facilitators & IT support staff to be supported with stipends for data, devices & backup power

- Digital device acquisition scheme and sponsored data for students

- Partnerships with telecommunication providers for functional internet connection for learning

- Community study centres for closer support to students in rural areas

ACETEL

- 5-day virtual training on creating interactive eLearning Content

- Interactive Course materials being developed and uploaded to the LMS for students' access

- Learning Resources developed for off-line access by learners

- Short course on IT essentials to be launched

Recommendations

- Consider the use of Open Educational Resources to enhance course content

- Lecturers should be encouraged and supported to take relevant online courses

- Massive training of teachers to teach at a distance and in the use of e-Learning

- Robust Policy Direction from local and federal governments

- Attention should be given to quality assurance

- Student and lecturers should be assisted in acquiring devices, reliable internet and power backups

- Take Cyber Security seriously

"**Change The Way You Look At Things** And The **Things You Look At Change**"

-Wayne Dyer

Thank You