

# **Awareness, Perception and Challenges of Use of E-Learning Platforms among Students of the Federal Polytechnic Ede during the Covid-19 Era**

By

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## **Abstract**

Perceiving the problem of the Covid-19 pandemic and the unpleasant impacts school lockdown will have on the educational system in Nigeria, the Management of the Federal Polytechnic Ede contemplated the use of e-learning platforms to teach their students remotely. The development was sudden and new due to the lecturers coupled with a shortage of literature on electronic learning platforms in the polytechnic sector. Sequel to this problem the primary objective of this research is to examine the level of awareness, perception, and challenges of using electronic learning platforms among students of the Federal Polytechnic, Ede. The study adopted a survey research design. The population consisted of all the registered students in the 2019/2020 academic session totaling 13,503. Two-stage sampling technique was used for the study. A proportionate stratified sampling technique was employed in selecting 1,350 students across all departments; while a simple random sampling technique was employed in selecting respondents from each department. An adapted and validated questionnaire was used as an instrument for data collection. One thousand thirty-five responses were received, which amounted to a 77% response rate. Generated data were analyzed using frequency count and simple percentages. Findings revealed that the students are aware of e-learning platforms like WhatsApp (84.9%), Blackboard Learn (65.5%); Google Classroom (58.9%); Google form (54.5%), and Zoom (52.4%). It further showed that, although the students are skeptical about the compatibility of e-learning platforms with sciences (58.8%) and less emphasis on practical (73%), they have a favorable perception of e-learning platforms as an easy means of providing a better learning experience in a flexible and personalized manner. Challenges such as inadequacy of facilities, lack of orientation, poor internet connectivity, poor, erratic supply, and high cost of internet subscription were identified to hinder the students' adoption and use of e-learning platforms.

**Key words:** *Awareness of e-learning platform; perception of polytechnic students; challenges of use; Covid-19 Era*