

Determinants of the Successful Diffusion of Technology Innovations in Higher Education Institutions in Africa: A social network approach

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Abstract

This study investigated how the institutional social networks of project coordinators and/or team leaders contributed towards the success or failure of the 26 technology innovation diffusion projects that were implemented under the Partnership for Higher Education in Africa Educational Technology Initiative across seven higher education institutions in Africa. The study used 105 questionnaires, 34 face-to-face interviews and 19 focus group discussions to survey respondents who were involved in the implementation of technology innovations. The study found that the appointment of institutional project coordinators and/or team leaders and the selection of team members were key to the success of technology innovation diffusion. Additionally, institutional coordinators and/or team leaders who inclined more to the centre of their institutional social networks proved to be a significant factor in the success of technology innovation implementation in their institutions. The findings of this study have significant implications for those involved in implementing educational technology innovation in higher education institutions in Africa, and may well be helpful for funders, project teams, and university management.

Keywords: Determinants, Successful, Technology