

# **Evaluation of Implementation of BSc IT curriculum at Tumaini University**

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## **Abstract**

In Tanzania computer knowledge is vital to supplement for fast growing economic and development activities, which demands high and reliable level of expertise in the field of computing. In 2006, a research carried out at Tumaini University with purpose to design and implement a contextualized curriculum that can supplement needs of local ICT expertise to be employed to discover ICT projects, device solutions to local ICT demands and facilitate development in Tanzanian context.

A contextualized curriculum took advantage of six principles namely curriculum contextualization, local problems as starting points for projects, practical, interdisciplinary orientation, international recognition and continuous research for the programme's formative and development. Implementation of the curriculum followed the CATI (Contextualize, Apply, Transfer, and Import) model with the main idea of students to identify the societal expectations at the early stage in learning process, in which case the graduates will have such a potential to cater for societal expertise needs on ICT.

This study adopts an emergent exploratory cross-section research design, while employing a qualitative approach. This study was conducted at Tumaini University in Iringa where by purposeful sampling was used to obtain participants who were students, teachers, administrators and employers and they participated in several focus group discussions, in-depth interviews and participant observation.

The findings showed that, the six principles are satisfactorily met although faced with setbacks such as incompatibility in pedagogical thinking and technological availability for e-learning, reluctance of students to alter their learning habits, lack of enough number of experts and skills

for implementation, insufficient amount time and tools for practical sessions, lack of specialization to produce various skills in response to societal needs.

The study recommends that iterative longitudinal study should be carried out to design for proper intervention in response to these problems which will help in improving and stabilize the curriculum.

**Keywords:** *Computer Science Education, Information and communications technology, Developing countries, evaluation, contextualization.*

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