

COUNSELLING CORNER

Hello There,

You have chosen to study by distance learning system (DLS) - not an easy method but more or less, a satisfactory one. Not easy because you will not have serious interactions with your course mates, course facilitators and centre managers for most of the time except during contact sessions or examination periods. Apparently, many of you chose to study by distance learning because it suited domestic and work routines and also fitted conveniently into your lifestyles. Whatever the reasons might be, there is still the need for general educational guidance to help you clarify your motives and to meet them through successful study.

Since you have taken the decision to study by DLS, then make the best use of the opportunity and achieve your aims, come what may. Remember that something must surely keep you going in order to achieve your aims. This I will call **MISSION STATEMENT** which is just a watch word or motto. It can be simply referred to as what encourages you to forge ahead despite all odds.

Come to think of it, have you ever thought of why some people struggle to achieve success and why some don't even think it is necessary? If you have ever done so, then that is the main reason why you are engaged in DLS. You have simply aspired to put yourself on higher plains and to also put your feet on higher ground!

You may then ask yourself these questions to help you conduct self evaluation exercise on yourself:

1. What do I want to achieve by studying through DLS? (Is it the best option for me?)
2. Are my ambitions realistic? (List and review them).
3. Do I have the necessary skills to be a successful student? (List your areas of strengths and weaknesses and think of how you can strengthen your weaknesses and improve on your strengths).
4. If I meet difficulties, is there anyone or anywhere I can turn to for help? (Educational, psychological, sociological and physiological).
5. Will I complete the course come what may? (What must I do positively?).
6. How do I achieve my dreams? (My goals and aspirations).

Perhaps you have pondered on issues like these before now and your answers seemed not to get you far, then, this is another opportunity to make up with these tips:

1. Enlarge your heart and permanently keep the answers there, or
2. Keep the answers somewhere that you can easily and always refer to,
3. Then redirect yourself and make these answers your mission statements, anytime, anywhere.
4. This will help you to forge ahead, despite all odds.

I will advise you to read the students' handbook to guide you on many steps you can take to succeed in DLS. You can also have a chat with the **Counsellor on "Help Line" (07064562771)** so as to bridge the gap.

Always remember that you can succeed. Just be determined and put in your best. **WELCOME ABOARD THE DLS. IT IS NEVER TOO LATE TO LEARN!**