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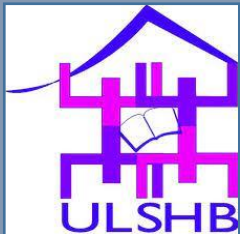


Actes de la 9^{ème} Edition des Journées Scientifiques de la
Faculté des Lettres, des Langues et des Sciences du Langage
(FLSL)

tenues les 05 et 06 Mars 2024 sise à Kabala



Thème : Culture, langue et éducation, trois vecteurs
essentiels pour la culture du patriotisme



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: " CULTURE, LANGUE ET EDUCATION, TROIS VECTEURS
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ANALYZING THE IMPACT OF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT ON ENHANCING LECTURERS' PERFORMANCE AT JULIUS NYERERE UNIVERSITY OF KANKAN (UJNK)

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Résumé

La formation et le développement sont cruciaux pour améliorer les qualifications et la performance des enseignants dans les institutions d'enseignement supérieur, en particulier à l'Université Julius Nyerere de Kankan (UJNK). Cette étude examine l'impact des pratiques de formation et de développement à l'UJNK, visant à analyser les politiques, pratiques existantes et leur efficacité. Une approche mixte a été utilisée, comprenant un questionnaire et des entretiens avec les autorités universitaires. Les résultats révèlent des niveaux variables de sensibilisation et des défis d'implémentation concernant les politiques de formation. Les recommandations incluent l'amélioration de la communication des politiques, le renforcement de la qualité de la formation et l'intégration de la gestion de la formation dans un département spécialisé à l'UJNK. Dans l'ensemble, l'étude souligne l'importance de stratégies efficaces de formation et de développement pour favoriser la performance des enseignants et l'efficacité institutionnelle.

Mots-clés : Développement, Formation, Impact, Patriotisme, Performance des employés.

Abstract

Training and development are crucial for enhancing the qualifications and performance of lecturers in higher education institutions, specifically at Julius Nyerere University of Kankan (UJNK). This study investigates the impact of training and development practices at UJNK, aiming to analyze existing policies, practices, and their effectiveness. A mixed-methods approach was employed, involving a survey questionnaire and interviews with university authorities. Findings indicate varying levels of awareness and implementation challenges regarding training policies. Recommendations include improving policy communication, enhancing training quality, and integrating training management under a specialized department within UJNK. Overall, the study underscores the importance of effective training and development strategies in fostering lecturer performance and institutional effectiveness.

Keywords: Development, Employees' Performance, Impact, Patriotism, Training.

Introduction

The study aims to explore the influence of training and development on enhancing employee performance in Guinean public universities, with a specific focus on Julius Nyerere University of Kankan (UJNK). Training is crucial as it equips employees with new skills and capabilities, thereby improving job proficiency and performance (Dahama, 1979). Developmental activities not only facilitate skill acquisition but also create opportunities for personal and professional growth within the organization.

Universities invest in training to enhance their personnel's skills and competencies, enabling them to perform their roles effectively and tackle unforeseen challenges. When employees perceive organizational investment in their growth, they are more motivated to contribute towards achieving organizational goals and perform at higher levels. Despite having a training and development policy, UJNK faces implementation challenges. Many officials and staff members are unaware of the policy, leading to inadequate awareness about training initiatives. The process of selecting staff for training often bypasses established procedures.

Training activities suffer from poor planning, inconsistent implementation, and a lack of coordination among three separate units—Research, Education, and Further Studies—each managing training independently, with little involvement from the human resource management department. The university's focus primarily on Master's and Doctorate programs neglects other forms of training. This narrow focus results in insufficient planning and execution of training programs, leading to issues such as incomplete training sessions, imminent retirements, or non-selection of employees for training opportunities.

The literature extensively covers the concepts of training and development, including their policies, goals, objectives, and their impact on employee performance. Training, defined by Cole (1999), involves learning activities aimed at acquiring specific job-related knowledge and skills, while Goldstein and Ford (2002) emphasize the systematic acquisition of skills that enhance performance in diverse settings. Development, according to Armstrong (2009) and Sader-Smith (2006), focuses on expanding individuals' capabilities and preparing them for broader responsibilities through continuous learning and personal growth.

Effective training policies are crucial for guiding training and development activities within an organization. Clardy (2008) argues that a well-documented policy is essential for structuring and governing the training function, particularly in large organizations, aiding in communication and integration of workforce efforts. Policies that prioritize outcomes over methods tend to be more effective in achieving desired training objectives (Au et al., 2008).

Research consistently shows a positive correlation between human resource practices like training and development and organizational performance. Purcell et al. (2003) and Guest (1997) highlight that these practices significantly enhance employee capabilities and job performance, contributing to organizational success. Wright and Geroy (2001) note that effective training programs not only improve current job performance but also prepare employees for future roles by enhancing their skills and competencies.

This study seeks to analyze the impact of training and development on enhancing lecturer performance at Julius Nyerere University of Kankan (UJNK). Specifically, it aims to: (1) examine UJNK's training and development policy, (2) assess the influence of training on employee performance at UJNK, and (3) propose strategies to enhance training and development practices at UJNK, linking them to fostering patriotism among employees.

1. Research Methodology

This study employed a mixed-method approach, combining qualitative and quantitative techniques within Julius Nyerere University of Kankan (UJNK). Data were collected from lecturers, the Human Resource Manager, and the Administration.

2.1. Research Questions

The study aimed to address the following research questions:

- a. What type of training and development policies and procedures exist in UJNK?
- b. What is the impact of training and development on individual performance and its link to patriotism?
- c. What recommendations can improve the training and development practices at UJNK?

2.2. Tools and Samples

Quantitative Approach:

- **Participants:** Questionnaires were administered to 44 lecturers at UJNK.
- **Method:** The questionnaires comprised primarily of structured or closed-ended questions to control responses and facilitate analysis (Borden and Abbott, 2002).

Qualitative Approach:

- **Participants:** Interviews were conducted with the Administration and the Human Resource Manager at UJNK.
- **Purpose:** Interviews validated questionnaire data and provided deeper insights into HR training and development policies and programs.
- **Topics Covered:** Discussions included procedures for staff training, program implementation, and challenges faced by UJNK in executing HR training and development plans. Data on training targets, outcomes, budgets, and core training areas were also gathered.

1.3. Data Analysis Method

In the quantitative analysis phase, survey data underwent comprehensive examination. This involved employing descriptive statistics to compute frequencies, percentages, means, and standard deviations across responses concerning training policies, impact on performance, and recommendations. Additionally, inferential statistics, such as correlations (e.g., Pearson correlation), were utilized to probe relationships between variables like training effectiveness and performance outcomes. Concurrently, questionnaire analysis underwent content analysis to uncover recurring themes and patterns concerning training policies, perceived impact on performance, and alignment with institutional goals. In the qualitative analysis, interview data were subjected to thematic analysis to identify pivotal themes and patterns regarding perceptions of training policies, implementation challenges, and improvement suggestions. Through coding techniques, interview responses were categorized into significant themes

related to training and development practices. Ultimately, integrating these findings through triangulation and assessing convergence across data sources (e.g., surveys, interviews) ensured a holistic understanding of training and development practices at UJNK, bolstering the validity of the study's conclusions.

By employing both quantitative and qualitative data analysis methods, the study ensures a comprehensive exploration of the training and development practices at UJNK, providing valuable insights into policy effectiveness, impact on performance, and recommendations for improvement.

1.4. Ethical Issue

In conducting research on training and development practices at Julius Nyerere University of Kankan (UJNK), several ethical considerations must be carefully addressed to ensure the integrity and fairness of the study. Researchers must obtain informed consent from all participants, including lecturers and university officials involved in surveys and interviews, to ensure they understand the study's purpose, risks, and benefits before agreeing to participate. Maintaining confidentiality of participants' identities and responses is crucial to protect sensitive information. Researchers should disclose any conflicts of interest that could potentially bias the study's outcomes and treat participants with respect, ensuring their autonomy and dignity throughout the research process. Upholding data integrity by accurately collecting, analyzing, and reporting findings is essential, as is maximizing benefits and minimizing harms to participants and the university. Researchers must also ensure compliance with institutional ethical policies and obtain necessary approvals before commencing the study to contribute valid insights to the field of education and organizational development ethically.

2. Results and Discussion

The results of this study are into broad themes in accordance the research questions and the objectives.

3.1. Training and Development Policy of UJNK

Interviews Results with Administration and Human Resource Manager at UJNK: Insights Supporting the Training and Development Policy of UJNK.

Efficient, Effective, and Fair Service

According to participant 5 from the Administration, "At UJNK, our Training and Development policy is designed to ensure that every training initiative contributes directly to the efficiency and fairness of our services. We prioritize programs that equip our staff with the latest skills and knowledge relevant to their roles." Participant 19, the HR Manager, added, "We believe in offering training that not only enhances job performance but also upholds fairness and equality among all employees. This is crucial for maintaining a harmonious work environment."

Allocation of Sufficient Resources

Participant 8 from the Administration noted, "Our policy mandates adequate resource allocation to support training activities. This includes funding for workshops, seminars, and educational sponsorships." Participant 25, the HR Manager, emphasized, "We ensure that resources are allocated judiciously to meet the diverse training needs of our workforce. This approach helps us maintain high standards of performance across all departments."

Recruitment, Training, and Motivation

Participant 31 from the Administration mentioned, "Recruiting and training highly qualified personnel is pivotal to our institutional success. We invest heavily in continuous training to ensure our workforce remains motivated and competent." Participant 14, the HR Manager, highlighted, "Our training programs are designed not only to develop skills but also to foster a culture of motivation and commitment among our staff. This commitment translates into better service delivery and academic outcomes."

Public Awareness

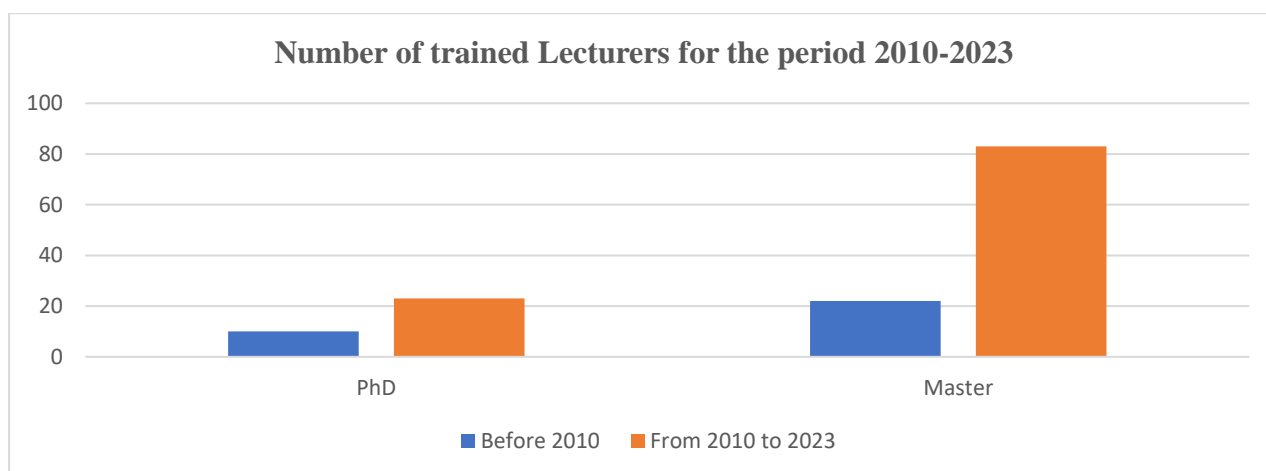
Participant 2 from the Administration stated, "It is part of our mission to communicate our contributions to the nation effectively. Through our training initiatives, we aim to showcase UJNK's role in advancing knowledge and societal development." Participant 17, the HR Manager, added, "Public awareness of our educational and research contributions is integral to our strategic goals. We leverage our training programs to enhance our reputation and strengthen public trust in our institution."

3.1.1. Training Trends in UJNK

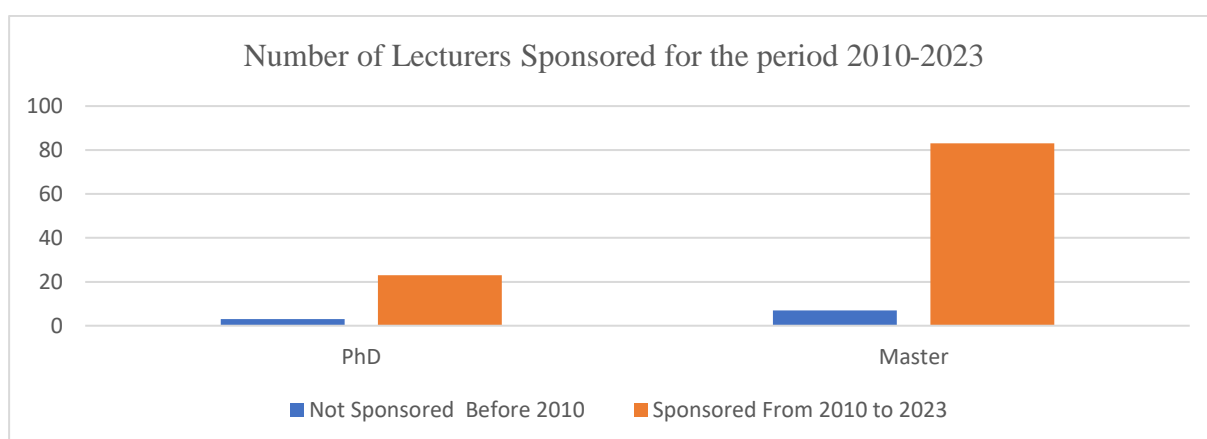
Master's and Doctorate Programs:

According to the interviews, the number of lecturers trained for master's and doctorate programs has shown a consistent increase from 2010 to 2023. This trend reflects UJNK's commitment to advancing academic qualifications among its faculty and staff. The increasing trend in training for advanced degrees further exemplifies UJNK's proactive approach to academic excellence and institutional development.

It can be observed from the graph representing the survey data that the number of trained lecturers increased steadily from 10 in the year before 2010 to 83 in the year 2023. According to the respondents, the real change or training started in 2010. Since, training programmes especially for Master and Doctorate increased progressively.



Similarly, regarding staff development activities, the graph below captures the trends of sponsorship for further studies over the same period.



The figure presented supports the fact that UJNK has a T&D policy which guides vigorous training and development activities. It confirms the assertion that UJNK has a structured training and development policy. It can be observed that the number of staff on sponsored study increased considerably, from 6 PhD and 13 Masters in the year before 2010 to 23 PhD and 83 Masters from 2010 to 2023. Generally, the number of staff sponsored for further studies has risen marginally over the period under review.

3.1.2. Awareness and Background of Training and Development Policy among UJNK Staff

This section discusses the second research objective, which aimed to determine the level of awareness of the Training and Development policy among UJNK staff. Data for this was obtained from questionnaires administered to the staff.

Background of the Staff

The respondents included 10 (25.0%) junior staff and 30 (75.0%) senior staff. A larger proportion of the respondents were senior officers, which, although unintended, enhanced the

richness of the data since they have worked for longer durations at UJNK and have been exposed to more training and development activities. Thus, they were in a better position to provide detailed information on human resource training and development activities at UJNK. Among the 40 respondents, 5 (4.17%) were females and 35 (95.83%) were males. The ages of the respondents ranged between 30 and 60 years, with an average age of 35.08 years, a modal age of 45.0 years, and a median age of 40.0 years.

Staff Awareness of Training and Development Policy

When asked if UJNK has a training and development policy, 25 (58.0%) respondents answered affirmatively, while 10 (25.0%) answered negatively, and 5 (16.67%) stated otherwise. The study showed that the majority of respondents were aware of the training and development policy and also had appreciable knowledge of it. However, the fact that not all staff were aware of the policy leaves much to be desired.

In response to the question of whether the policy has been communicated to them, 30 (75.0%) of the respondents who were aware of the policy affirmed that it had been communicated to them. Only 10 (25.0%) of those who were aware of the policy indicated that it had not been communicated to them.

3.2. The Impact of training and Development at UJNK

In response to research question 3, both datasets revealed various Training and Development practices at UJNK, encompassing identification of training needs, staff involvement in training and development activities, and the frequency, nature, and quality of training programs. The table below contains the Impact of training and development programs.

Table 1: Impact of training and development programs

Impact of training	Frequency	Percent
Not effective at all	6	8,3
Not effective	6	8,3
Not sure	2	4,2
Effective	18	62,5
Very effective	8	16,7
Total	40	100,0

Therefore, the majority of respondents generally affirmed that the training programs effectively equipped them with the intended skills. Regarding the relevance of the received training to their work activities, the responses from Table 1 were analysed.

3.3.Recommendations to Improve the Training and Development at UJNK

To improve training and development at UJNK, recommendations based on participant perceptions include:

1. **Full Implementation of T&D Policy:** Participants emphasize the urgent need for UJNK management to fully implement its Training and Development (T&D) policy. This step is crucial to enhancing staff job skills and ultimately improving performance across the institution. Participant 38 mentioned, "The current T&D policy at UJNK lacks comprehensive implementation. Many of us feel that without full implementation, we are missing out on opportunities to upgrade our skills effectively."
2. **Enhanced Staff Participation:** It is recommended that UJNK involve staff more actively in decisions regarding their training and development. This participatory approach can increase staff engagement and alignment of training initiatives with individual career goals. Hence, Participant 6 stated, "Involving us more in decisions about our training would make a significant difference. When we have a say in what we learn, it feels more relevant to our career paths and keeps us motivated."
3. **Upgrade Training Facilities:** Participants suggest improving facilities and logistics at UJNK's training school to create a conducive environment for learning. State-of-the-art ICT facilities are particularly highlighted to better support training programs and meet the institution's standards. So, it is argued by the participant 27 that "Improving our training facilities is long overdue. Upgrading to state-of-the-art ICT resources would not only enhance our learning experience but also align with UJNK's reputation as a leading institution."
4. **Incentivize Self-Advancement:** Management should revise training policies to include rewards or compensation for staff who pursue self-advancement. This can motivate staff to enhance their skills independently, reducing turnover and maintaining a skilled workforce. This is confirmed by the participant 11, "There should be tangible rewards for those of us who pursue additional qualifications or skills. It would encourage more of us to invest in our professional development and stay committed to UJNK."
5. **Focus on Training Quality:** There is a strong recommendation to prioritize the quality and effectiveness of training programs. Adequate financial support is emphasized as essential for delivering high-quality training that meets the needs of UJNK's employees. Within the same sense, it is pointed out Participant 9, "Quality matters more than quantity in training. Without adequate financial backing, we risk diluting the impact of our programs. Investing wisely in training ensures we get the skills we truly need."
6. **Centralized Training Management:** To streamline training efforts, participants suggest centralizing the management of T&D under a specialized department within

HRM. This would unify the Continuous Training Program and the Further Training Program under one umbrella, ensuring better coordination and a cohesive strategy for T&D at UJNK. So, the participant 24 suggested, "Bringing T&D management under one specialized department makes sense. It would streamline processes and ensure that all training initiatives align with UJNK's overall strategic goals, rather than operating in silos."

Conclusion

The study on training and development practices at Julius Nyerere University of Kankan (UJNK) provides critical insights into current practices and opportunities for enhancement within the institution. Employing a mixed-methods approach of surveys and interviews, the research explored existing policies, implementation challenges, and the perceived effectiveness of training initiatives. The findings reveal varying awareness levels among UJNK staff regarding training policies, with identified gaps in communication and implementation that necessitate comprehensive policy implementation for equitable staff development. Participants widely acknowledged the positive impact of training programs on enhancing job skills and performance, underscoring the potential of well-structured initiatives to bolster lecturer performance and institutional effectiveness. Recommendations focus on fully implementing the T&D policy, enhancing staff participation in decision-making, upgrading training facilities with modern ICT resources, incentivizing self-advancement, prioritizing training quality, and centralizing T&D management. Addressing these recommendations is crucial for UJNK to strengthen its role in higher education, fostering a skilled workforce and advancing academic excellence.

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