ABSTRACT

The study aimed at investigating the impact of information technology in University students' academic performance, a case study of selected universities in Arusha City. The specific objective of the study are; To investigate the resources which are used the most in accessing internet by higher education students; To identify the extent to which internet usage contribute to students' academic performance; and to assess the possible measures to improve students' academic performance in higher education. The study employed mixed research approach which is combination of qualitative and quantitative approaches. Moreover, descriptive survey design helped in getting numerical data and attitudes of the students and lecturers on the effects of information technology in universities. Simple random sampling were used in obtaining respondents in the study area. Total of 150 respondents were included in the study at which 140 were university students and 10 ICT lecturers from the selected universities. Questionnaire an interview guide were the instruments of data collection for the study. Data analysis completely implemented with the aid of SPSS Version 22 and Microsoft Excel in obtaining Graphs and charts. The findings revealed that smartphones and personal computers are devices which are most applicable in internet access among university students. The presence of computer rooms, availability of University Wi-Fi network, Hotspots and assignment provisions by lecturers enhance motivations towards internet usage among most of university students. Most of students has positive attitude in accessing internet services by studying, sending assignment, discussion and downloading materials. There is a need for extensive training programmes organised at regular intervals so that all categories of users can improve their efficiency in the use of the internet. To solve the problem of slow functioning of internet connectivity, the university body should acquire high speed internet connection with maximum bandwidth. It is recommended that the cost of browsing should be reviewed downward so that student's access to internet can increase. Government should as a matter of necessity improve on the present state of power in the country.