

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Higher Education: Advantages, Disadvantages OF Applying E-Learning to Students

¹J. Sridevi, ²C. Bala Krishnan and ³K.Senthil Kumar

¹Faculty of Management Studies,

Dr.M.G.R. Educational & Research Institute University.

sridevi.mba@drmgrdua.ac.in

²Faculty of Management Studies,

Dr.M.G.R. Educational & Research Institute University.

³Department of Commerce,

Dr.M.G.R. Educational & Research Institute University.

Senthil.kumar.kanish@gmail.com

Abstract

In current information community of people have to access knowledge via information and communication technology (ICT) to keep pace with the latest developments. By applying ICT, the possibility of learning without restrictions of time and place would be gained with effort which suits the needs of the students. The use of ICT is a symbol of a new time in history in education. Besides, ICT changes thought patterns, enriches existing educational models and provides new training models. The use of ICT in college Information and communication technologies consist of hardware, software, network and media for collecting, storing, processing, transmitting and presenting information (voice, data, text and image) as well as related services. This paper briefly describes the advantages and disadvantages of ICT enabled education to everyone.

1. Introduction

ICTs can be divided into two parts: Information and Communication and Information Technology (IT). The former refers to physical system related to sending and receiving phone calls, texts, etc. and network (Cellular, voice, mail, radio and television) while the last thing just mentioned refers to hardware and software of information collection, storage, processing and presentation (Sarkar, 2012).

ICTs are being used in many areas such as: developing course materials; delivering content and sharing content; communication between learners, teachers and the outside world; creation and delivery of presentation and lecture related to school learning research related to managing and running a company or support and student enrolment (Mandal & Mete, 2012). When applying ICT in college, learning is no longer confined within schedules and timetables (Hattangdi & Ghosh, 2008).

Ordinary teaching draws attention to on content, so courses have been developed based on textbooks as a means of teaching for many years, teachers have taught through lectures and presentations and learning activities are designed to combine and practice the content. Students have been trained to let others present them the information that makes the courses. The use of ICT as an instructional medium is increasing and might likely continue to change success plans which are employed by both teachers and students in learning process (Oliver, 2003).

One of the most important features of e-learning is the students' interaction with learning materials and learning conditions. In interactive systems, the learner is involved in interactions which include selecting, answering and solving problems. By that/in that way, the learner is involved in the process which leads to a deeper and more effective learning process. Learning along with thinking and developing sensitivity to the external conditions leads to building confidence and development of learners' traits. In general, improving and improving the quality.

2. Advantages of E-learning

E-learning avoids linear constraints of traditional curriculum. Besides, teaching and learning process can take place in training centers, houses and even remote areas and build an opportunity for learning (Behnam, 2012).

3. Time and Place Access

Users can go head through a training program both at their own pace and at their own place. They can also access the training system at any time, receiving only as much as they need. In other words, "just in time and just enough" (James, 2002).

4. Equity

Karimi (2007) believes e-learning provides opportunities that students can access to higher education in this field in every situation. Indeed equal access and equal competence is the objective of this education system.

5. Enhancing Group Collaboration

Learners and teachers can be connected together via talking, voice and video meetings together, interactive TV, virtual classes and eliminate physical separation (at the same time). In this way, learners are active in learning and interactive processes Faraj Allahi & Zarif Sanayei, (2009).

Direct access to many other training resources: Karimi (2007) states the number of copies of a book or magazine is limited. However, digital libraries simply offer electronic copies of resources and students will be able to use them everywhere.

Enhancing the International Dimension of Educational Services

Learners are able to find out the required information in their field by using ICT and the obtained data is not only limited to information on Persian Language but also in English (Khaleghi, 2010). Determining the rate of progression in courses: This feature reduces the level of anxiety of students due to fear of falling behind others in class and also increases satisfaction of gifted learners regarding education system (Hodavand, 2008).

Disadvantages of E-Learning

Although e-learning has many advantages and simplify the process of learning and teaching, it suffers from some disadvantages. Some investigator considers them disruptive in educational process.

Absence of Teacher

Compared with traditional methods, face-to-face and dynamic communication does not exist in e-learning. This can cause negative effects on academic progression and characteristic development of students. However, with continuous and fast technological advances, this problem is becoming less frequent. Recently learners can interact and cooperate well together using information and communication technologies (Behnam, 2012; Yadegarzadeh & Rahimi, 2002). Anyway because of the nature of farming based education, there seems necessary for someone who can master practical courses and supervise students and their operation.

Limitations of E-Learning

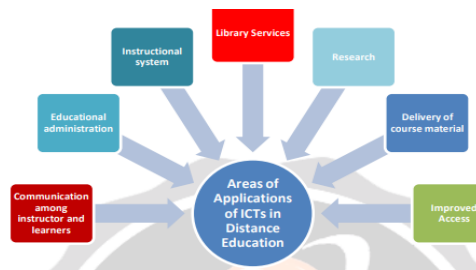
E-learning can improve the speed of learning and simplify its process (Faraj Allahi & Zarif Sanayei, 2009). However, in many communities, a lot of restrictions on this type of training is forced on people caused an inconvenient situation which reduces the speed of its growth or interferes with using it.

Novelty

It may take long time designing and developing web based training (WBT) courses at the beginning. Because of its recent coming into view to the training area, new technologies always require time, experience, and money in order to take full advantage of its abilities. The great thing, however, is that learner would learn new skills and knowledge with each new course (James, 2002).

6. High costs for establishment, enquiry for high funding to conserve:

Providing hardware instruments is costly which is sometimes difficult to afford. This problem is much worse for developing countries. Cost of data transfer per kilometre is around 5100Rials (about \$0.5)overseas, while the cost of data transfer based on existing tariff per kilometre is 450000Rials (about \$36) from Bazargan border to Tehran



7. Conclusion

The emergence of technologies in the field of education has opened a new beginning for learners as well as teachers. To accomplish the goals of providing education and training for everyone and to meet the new and changing demands of society. The use of ICT is a symbol of a new time in history in education. Besides, ICT changes thought patterns, enriches existing educational models and provides new training models. These models shares features of a technology-based training and suggest new learning methods in which the learner plays an active role and also draws attention to self-directed, independent, flexible and interactive learning.

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) are a group of technologies and tools which, at one hand are useful for learners by helping them with worldwide access, library services and communication with experts, useful resource person, professionals, and peers; on the other hand important for teachers in course design, developing course materials and in research.

ICTs are important in distance education due to their prospective in teaching-learning, to increase flexibility of learning with tools like Virtual Learning surrounding, and Course Management Systems like Moodle, abTutor, online

discussion boards, wikis, chat rooms, MOOCs and (shared online writing pages).

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