



The impact of e-learning system on conventional teaching environment. Field study in UAE Context

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Abstract

The role of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is increasingly visible and has many applications in our routines. One such application that currently has profound impact is e-learning systems. The growing potential of online educational systems and their robust utilities are leading to a re-examination of conventional teaching-learning systems all around the world. In this context, this study inquires into learners' and instructors' attitudes towards e-learning systems in a conventional teaching-learning environment, focusing on a few institutes of higher education operating under the approval of the UAE's Ministry of Higher Education. Based on the survey data generated from 66 instructors and 96 students, the educational institutions should move to adopt e-learning systems along with their conventional teaching learning systems to a greater degree than is currently the case, since such systems have wide acceptance both from instructors and students, expanding e-learning opportunities may be a way to maintain higher levels of quality in the teaching-learning exercise. Although many institutions are moving towards more e-learning, it should be given more emphasis. In particular, educational institutions should recruit instructors with high levels of ICT ability in order to encourage an environment more conducive to the migration of the teaching-learning system in the direction of e-learning systems; the high level of student acceptance of instructor-assisted learning confirms the importance of instructors in the teaching-learning environment as a whole. However, educational institutions should work toward finding the optimal mix of instructor-assisted and e-learning-based teaching-learning environments, such an optimal mix will contribute significantly to maintaining quality in the institutes of higher education. The instructors in various educational institutions should incorporate a greater mix of multimedia instruction in their pedagogy, since there is resounding acceptance of the use of multimedia systems. From the students' perspective, institutions should take steps to develop multimedia presentations that can enhance the quality of the teaching-learning environment as a whole. such a mix also presents good business opportunities for software & multimedia. Educational institutions whose instructors have lower levels of ICT expertise should implement training on ICT for such instructors in order to enable them to face the challenges of the future, particularly as they related to increased use of e-learning-based systems. Thus, this study opens up an avenue for discussing the implications and possible adoption of e-learning systems in the conventional teaching-learning setting currently employed in the UAE.

References

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