



Improving E-tutor Qualifications through E-learning

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Abstract

Having well-qualified, committed and actively involved faculty members are crucial for creating high-quality distance learning content. This is particularly important since distance learning programmes require new technical and pedagogical skills, intensive planning, and most importantly, the creation and effective delivery of instruction. Owing to this fact, a Turkish state university located in Ankara, Turkey, which is currently implementing several internet-based distance learning programmes, initiated the first e-tutor training and certification programme primarily targeted to its own faculty members who are involved in e-learning activities, as well as any other educator interested in e-learning. The training programme comprised of 12 online classes and six optional face-to-face meetings, and includes a variety of subjects ranging from online pedagogy to instructional design, visual design principles, multimedia material development, testing and evaluation in online learning and social media. Another Turkish state university located in Muğla, Turkey, which started two internet-based distance learning programmes in autumn 2012 in addition to technology supported on-campus courses, took the decision to provide this training programme to all faculty members who would be teaching online. In the summer of 2012, the e-certificate programme was provided to 80 faculty members, 40 from each university. Since inception, all training programme participants have been surveyed regarding their opinions of the training from a higher education point of view. This paper aims to evaluate the effectiveness of this e-tutor certification programme based on the results of this survey. Faculty members of two state universities formed the sample for this research study. Random interviews were also conducted to evaluate retention of the skills learned on the course, together with the observations of researchers about the efficient usage of thought concepts and possible deficiencies. Based on the findings, necessary improvements in the certificate programme will be made in order to achieve a more effective solution.