

eLearning: The Best Human Development as Creator of Knowledge

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Abstract

The objective of this paper is to look at an advantage of eLearning system to human development. The distance education is becoming a more important and useful strategy of development. Workers might not be able to study in the normal education system. Therefore, they still have choice of education without affecting their career. And eLearning is as an innovative tool for this kind of study.

In the contemporary day, the progressive countries are based on quality of people. During the past two decades, advances in information technology have promoted the rapid growth of globalisation, and this in turn has prompted the information of new global economic and socio-cultural relations and as in international studies, it led to the reevaluation of international relations.

In the view of political scientist, it is clear that the authority of government and state is still important in the globalisation process. Therefore, the distance education which provides variety of academic fields benefits the student. Some students want to develop their skills, some want higher education to get their reasons, and the education is still important function of sustainable development. And as we live in digital world, eLearning has become an integral Globalisation, encouraging national development to reach world standards. It is a crucial part for education, including

distance learning system. For example, eLearning has been established as part of the universities' daily routine at German Universities (according to recent survey).(1) By the way, some obstacles for eLearning system are limited capacity of internet access, and students' lack of computer skills.

However, as a political scientist, I believe that the countries must be developed faster, if their peoples are developed to know any tricks of the others ... and knowledge is the most important in the contemporary world.

Introduction

In the contemporary situation, the progressive countries are based on the quality of people and globalisation is a contemporary world paradigm. During the past two decades, advances in information technology have promoted the rapid growth of globalisation, and this in turn has prompted the formulation of new global economic and socio-cultural relationships and led to the reevaluation of international relations. Globalisation has affected many disciplines and makes for homogeneity across the world.

Evolving from an internationalism of the past, the present form of globalisation not only links countries, but unites individuals through innovations in communication, and information provides opportunity to compete, and to be a winner or loser in the global political economy.

Therefore, every nation-state has to prepare itself to embrace the opportunities and challenges of globalisation. Paramount among these is the rise of the knowledge economy or knowledge-based society, one of the chief artifacts of globalisation. As Charles Leadbeater believes, the knowledge economy has become a major ingredient of economic growth. He believes that the central component of economic growth and well being in the developed economies is unlikely to be population growth, raw-materials, land or physical plant and equipment, the assets which fascinated economists in days gone by. The engine of growth will be the process through which an economy creates, applies and extracts value from knowledge. The task of modern economic policy is to foster the twenty-first century knowledge economy.(2)

This belief is corroborated by Anthony Giddens who notes that “the intensifying of globalisation has been deeply influenced by the information technology (IT) revolution, while the knowledge economy itself is becoming globalised.” (3) In other words, technological innovation will still be a powerful force in the global political century in the 21st century. The innovation technology has not enhanced only in case of economy. For example, goods, services, investment, and information can be traded more cheaply and rapidly due to the advanced information and communication technologies that underlines e-commerce and the internet.(4) Information and communication technologies are being employed to transfer and control the flow of information, knowledge, money, and goods, and services across national boundaries. Information Society as a catalyst for change and innovation is more than a technical fix of problems; it is a tool for enabling people to participate in the processes of social and economic renewal. (5)

But IT has enhanced knowledge-base society as well. eLearning is being well-

known. For example, in Germany, eLearning has been established as part of the universities’ daily routine at German universities. In the case of distance learning system, eLearning is more beneficial and easier both for lecturer and student. Since the distance and open learning system is becoming important and being useful development strategy for everyone. Student who might have no time to study in normal system can still have choice of education without leaving their work....eLearning is helpful!

Educational Benefits from eLearning:

eLearning or sometimes known as Online Learning, can be defined as:

an approach to teaching and learning that utilised Internet technologies to communicate and collaborate in an educational context. This includes technology that supplements tradition classroom training with web-based components and learning environments where the educational process is experienced online. (6)

According to *A Blackboard Tip Sheet*, the educational advantages are(7):

- Enhancing student-to-student and faculty-to-student communication

eLearning provides many ways to increase communication between class members and faculty that students can share perspective. And it encourages student to feel a sense of equality. Each individual can speak-up by posting messages, and instructors are more accessible.

- Enabling student-centred teaching approaches

Because each student has a unique learning style, eLearning can accommodate difference. And the lecturers also provide increased opportunity for student exploration and activity learning to encourage ‘learn by doing’

- Providing 24 hours/7days a week to course materials

As everyone might have different best time for work, some work best in the morning, some in the evening, therefore, eLearning is continual access to materials anytime. eLearning removes reliance on physical attendance. In traditional education, students working on group projects must coordinate schedules. In distance learning environments, this may not even be possible, forcing participants to work independently. Therefore, eLearning system can solve this problem.

- Providing just-in-time methods to assess and evaluate student progress

Learner assessments are essential in education. Tests and surveys inform the lecturer whether teaching methods and course structures are successful. Online assessment tools provide lecturers with many ways to build, distribute, and compile information quickly and easily.

- Reducing amount of faculty time spent on “administrivia”

In summary, the Blackboard.com confirms that the advantages of eLearning or online-education make a significant impact in higher education today and, as technology evolves, promise to deliver even greater benefits in the future.(8) On the other hand, eLearning is as part of students’ daily life.

eLearning and my experience

From my own experience at School of Political Science, STOU, I have not much experience about teaching on eLearning system. At STOU, mostly, textbooks are still a main tool for study. Therefore, it seems to be one-way communication. When students get stuck with something in the textbook, they might ring the School or send letter. The textbooks are always easy to get out of date.

However, nowadays, internet can create two-way communication between lecturers

and students through School’s web-board. Since then, I have got good feedback from my students that it is more convenient and help them easily getting in touch with lecturers by saving both time and money. And for myself, I use web-board to up-to-date information concern about School or courses.

Conclusion

eLearning has become an integral part of educational life. However, a success of eLearning system depends on computer skills. The use of eLearning requires good skills in e-mail and internet use as well.

However, I personally do believe that education is the most important function of sustainable development. Therefore, the countries must be developed faster, if their peoples are developed to know any tricks of the others, eLearning is the one can enhance this success.

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