

Identify and explain the requirements of e-learning, in accordance with the characteristics of today's undergraduate students

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Introduction

Newfound technologies in the communication and information area lead the educational systems toward e-teaching/learning. certainly, the application of e-learning strategy based on components tailored to the needs, desires and skills of students, leads to the creation of numerous and diverse learning opportunities for students. In contrast, the inappropriateness and adaptation of academic activities to the generational characteristics of students is a cause of motivation and academic failure. The present study tries to identify and explain the requirements of e-teaching/learning which are fit for the characteristics of today's BA students.

Method

The research design is mixed and of successive exploratory type. The qualitative part was done using the content analysis method and the quantitative part was done using the descriptive-survey method. The tools of the qualitative section are semi-structured interviews and the tools of the quantitative section are researcher-made questionnaires. The content validity of the questionnaire and interview questions, according to experts, and the reliability of the questionnaire through Cronbach's alpha with a value of 0.86, was estimated to be appropriate. The statistical population of the qualitative section was experts in the two fields of educational sciences and social sciences, of which the sample of them continued purposefully until the saturation of information. The statistical population in the quantitative section consisted of faculty members and BA students of educational and social sciences colleges of Tehran and Isfahan Universities of which the

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sample of them was chosen with the stratified random method according to the volume. The analysis of the findings in the qualitative part is based on grounded theory and in the quantitative part is based on descriptive and inferential statistics.

Results

Regarding the research findings, the most important Requirements of e-teaching/learning which suits the characteristics of today's BA students is: using virtual messengers, using soft wares and educational videos, using scientific websites, using remote supplementary trainings, being allowed to search the Internet in classroom, having virtual assignments, taking virtual exams and using smart board.

Discussion

Based on the findings, it can be concluded, the application of these elements, leads to academic motivation and scientific growth of today's students and thus, it is recommended: Universities must provide the software and hardware needed for e-learning, especially smart boards and high-speed Internet. In addition, in order to familiarize professors and students with e-learning skills, they should conduct workshops and encourage professors who use these methods. Faculty Members too, in order to make the best use of educational opportunities, try to: add variety and appeal to teaching by using educational software and videos, increase the richness of the lesson by introducing and using scientific websites, allow students in the classroom to explore course content on the web and perform activities such as quizzes and presenting and reviewing assignments virtually.

Keywords: e-teaching/learning, higher education, BA level, new generation characteristics

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