

A Study of Effective Implementation of E-Learning in Higher Education with Special Reference to Najran University

Farooqui Waseemuddin¹, Mirza Anwarullah Baig²

Dept of Computer Science, Community College,

Najran University, Najran, K.S.A

fwaseem@nu.edu.sa, anwarntfs@gmail.com

Abstract

This study is an attempt to evaluate an effective implementation of E-Learning program in Najran University. It stresses to identify the weaknesses of the system from different aspects like end users understanding the technology, sources available through E-Learning program, Analysis of student's performance, Training and technical support for the users, Studio for recording lecturer clips. It also focuses to find out whether the E-Learning program meets the learners requirements.

Keywords: E-Learning, Higher Education, Distance Learning, Online Learning and Najran University

Introduction

E-learning program has been recently implemented in Najran University. The purpose of the study is to highlight the weaknesses of the program, to effectively implement it in the Najran University.

E-Learning technology is now widely used in Education. Now, it has become a part of education system. The E-Learning process covers a wide area which "includes Web-based Learning, Computer based Learning, Virtual class room opportunities and Digital collaboration, Content is delivered via the Internet, Intranet / extranet, audio or Video tape, Satellite TV and CD-Rom" [6].

"To carry out effective Learning evaluation is one of the significant factors to guarantee the sound development of online education" [5]

The study of the E-Learning program was conducted through Survey Questionnaire and Personal Interviews with E-Learning Administrative staff and Faculty members.

1. Some of the basic and important questions in the Survey were related System compatibility with the technology. Such as Application Programs, Database and Hardware compatibility.
2. Training and technical support required the end users to understand the technology.
3. Courses available to the students through E-Learning program.
4. Performance analysis of the students.
5. The technology used in the Studio for recording Lecture clips and the problem faced in the Studio.

6. The end users experiencing other issues related to E-Learning programs.

1. Review of Literature

1.1 Effectiveness:

“The technology, Management of learning resources, Metadata and management effectiveness of learning of E- Learning in Higher education” [2].

1.2 Co-ordination:

“It is important that to promote E-Learning method for specific goal oriented users, more efforts should be made on enhancing efficient feedback and active interaction between instructors / teachers and users” [4].

1.3 Quality Assurance:

“The potential of utilizing Human knowledge in the university environment will optimize the resources and can be lost cost effective and quality assurance factors and provide the university with a sustainable competitive advantage” [8].

2. Methodology: Survey Method

2.1 Feedback questionnaire:

Feedback questionnaire was designed for the E-Learning Administrative staff and Faculty members. Some basic and important questions were selected in the questionnaire to get most appropriate and correct information. Most of the questions in the questionnaire were designed in the form of “Yes” or “No” or “Don’t know”.

2.2 Oral Interviews:

Oral interview was conducted for Administrative staff and Faculty members of E-Learning program. Some of the descriptive questions were asked to them regarding various issues in the technology and their suggestions to improve the E-Learning systems.

3. Results and Discussion

Analysis

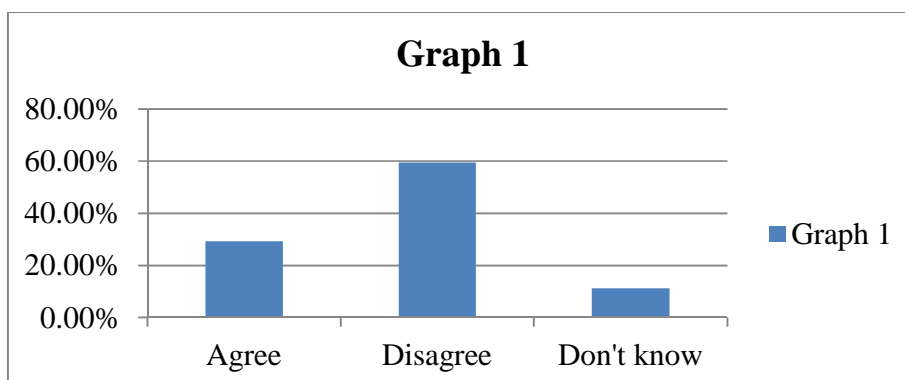
A feedback questionnaire was given to 10 Administrative staff and 10 Faculty members of E-Learning program.

3.1 Analysis for Administrative staff

Among 10 Administrative staff members 59.40 % of the staff members disagree with the questions, 29.30 % of the staff members Agree with the questions and remaining 11.30 % of the staff members don’t know.

Table 1: Questionnaire Feedback results for Administrative Staff

Total Staff Members	10
Agree	29.30%
Disagree	59.40%
Don't know	11.30%

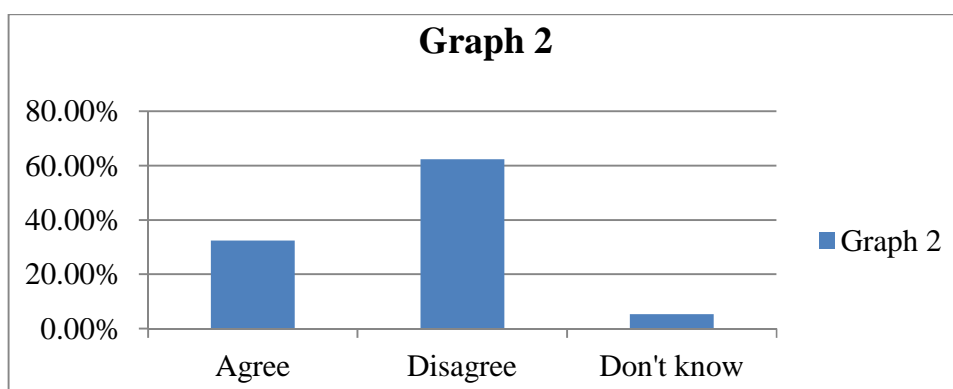


3.2 Analysis for Faculty members

Among 10 Faculty members 62.30 % disagree with the questions, 32.40 % Agree with the questions and the remaining 5.30 % of the Faculty members don't know.

Table 2: Questionnaire Feedback results for Faculty Members

Total Staff Members	10
Agree	32.40%
Disagree	62.30%
Don't know	5.30%

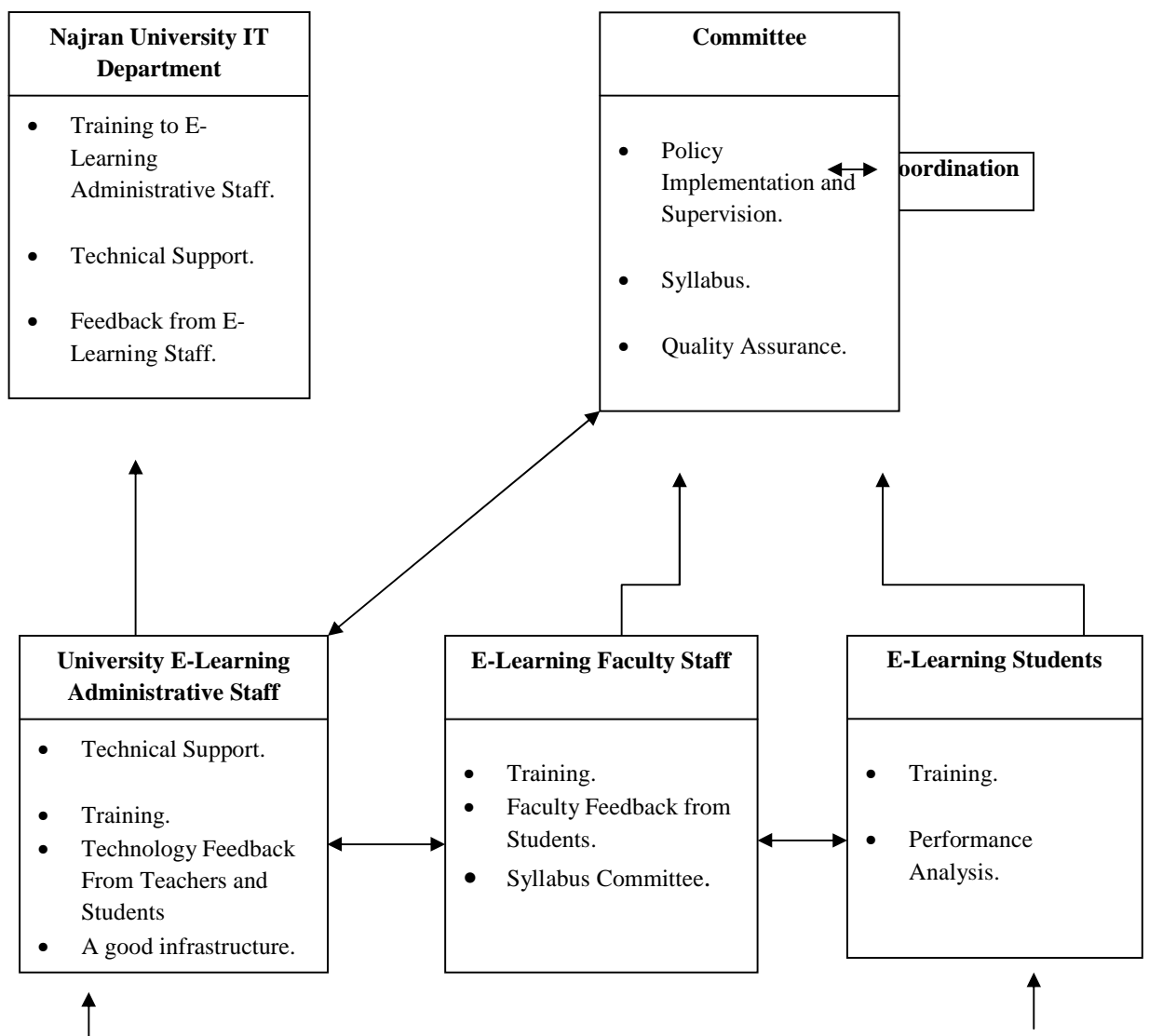


Findings

1. Lack of understanding the E-Learning Technology.
2. Lack of Technical support from the company.
3. Student's performance is not analyzed.
4. The training provided for faculty members and students is insufficient to understand the technology.
5. There is no downloading facility of Lecture clips for the students.
6. There is an Electricity problem in the studio.
7. Only selected courses are available through E-Learning.

Proposed Model

Proposed Model For Effective Implementation Of E-Learning Program



Conclusion and suggestions

Some of the major problems identified during the feedback and interview sessions with the E-Learning Administrative staff and Faculty members are as follows:

This work presented an effective and efficient E-Learning program in Najran University. However, several identified issues are required to extend the research work towards a fruitful and efficient E-Learning system.

In addition there are several issues related to the effective implementation towards E-Learning program. There should be a good understanding of E-Learning technology by all end users. There should be Training and technical support required. Student's performance should be analyzed to guide the E-Learning adopters and their directions and future impacts. There should be a downloading facility of the Lecture clips for offline study. In order to overcome the electricity problem in the studio, there should be online UPS.

There should be enough courses to be selected by the students. However, the above mentioned issues need to be carefully study and implemented to overcome the drawbacks for the effective implementation of E-Learning system.

Acknowledgement:

We would like to express our gratitude to Deanship of Scientific Research at Najran University and E-Learning Administrative staff and Faculty members for successful completion of this research paper.

References:

- [1] An Activity-Level Internet-Based eLearning Model For University Level Course Ghassan Omar Shahin, Diljit Singh, and Teh Ying Wah, Department of Information Science, Faculty of Computer Science & Information Technology, University of Malaya 50603 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- [2] Bhavani Sridharan, Hepu Deng, Brian Corbitt. The Perceptions of Learners on the Effectiveness of E-Learning in Higher Education: An Empirical Study. 2010 2nd International Conference on Education Technology and Computer (ICETC)
- [3] Calvin Cheng I , Ronnie Cheung², Calvin Wanl. E-Learning in Higher Education - A Case Study in Hong Kong. 2010 IEEE.
- [4] Ching-Hong Liu. The Comparison of Learning Effectiveness between Traditional Face-to-Face Learning and e-Learning among Goal-Oriented Users.

- [5] Design and Implementation of E-Learning Performance Evaluation System. Hu Dali Jiangxi University of Finance and Economics. 2008 International Conference on Computer Science and Software Engineering.
- [6] <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/E-learning>
- [7] http://www.newman.ac.uk/Students_Websites/~m.m.friel/dis.htm
- [8] Issa M. Shehabat and Saad A. Mahdi. E-Learning and its Impact to the Educational System in the Arab World. 2009 International Conference on Information Management and Engineering.
- [9] Joaquín Paredes and José-Miguel Correa. E-Learning platforms use and teaching and learning models in the European Higher Education Area. 2010 International Conference on Financial Theory and Engineering.
- [10] Marta Žuvi_-Butorac, Zoran Nebi. Institutional Support for e-Learning Implementation in Higher Education Practice: A Case Report of University of Rijeka, Croatia. Proceedings of the *ITI 2009 31st Int. Conf. on Information Technology Interfaces*, June 22-25, 2009, Cavtat, Croatia.
- [11] Regional Report 2008 on ASEAN University-Level eLearning Prof. Dr. Srisakdi Charmonman, Chairman of the Board and CEO, College of Internet Distance Education, Assumption University of Thailand.
- [12] Salah Al-Sharhan, Ahmed Al-Hunaiyyan and Hanaa Al-sharah. A New Efficient Blended E-Learning Model and Framework for K12 and Higher Education: Design and Implementation Success Factors. 2010 IEEE.
- [13] University of Wales Aberystwyth E-Learning Strategy 2005-2009.