

Emerging Trends in Distance Education

The new trend in education is technological innovation, the use of the latest software and new teaching methods. Because of the rapid changes in methods and technology, distance education has also changed, so all the new concepts, the latest style, teaching methods and new technologies to promote teaching learning process is a new trend in education. Distance education system teaching is more challenging than the formal education system. According to Natarajan (2005) "a method of teaching students off-campus, in a far-off and flexible timetable, largely self-taught, but with regular guidance from teachers, students may or may never face each other." In this age of science and technology, educators should not dismantle trees in order to produce print-based materials for the reader, because the purchase of these materials is expensive and there is a high risk of miscommunication in asynchronous media. On the other hand, the use of the Internet and state-of-the-art technology can be cost-effective, and there is less chance of erroneous communication in a synchronous manner. Therefore, bearing in mind this, most of the emerging trends in distance education are designed in a synchronized manner with the help of network technology and software.

1. Hybrid Learning:

Another important trend in recent years has been the emergence of "hybrid" or "blended" approaches that combine online activities and face-to-face interactions. The term hybrid learning is used to describe a solution that incorporates several different delivery methods, such as collaboration software, Web-based courses, and knowledge management practices. Hybrid learning is also used to describe learning that mixes a variety of event-based activities, including face-to-face classrooms, real-time e-learning, and self-learning. A study by the North American Online Learning Committee predicts that a mixed approach may become the dominant teaching model and more prevalent than traditional, purely face-to-face classroom instruction or teaching that is completed entirely online.

2. Information Communication Technology:

New communication technologies provide a creative and stimulating way to present information and provide opportunities for interaction. Distance learning system learners are remote to institutions and in large-scale. It is difficult for learners to access the institution on a daily basis

to obtain support available in the conventional system, and it is even difficult for the institution itself to provide various services to learners at different stages of the student learning life cycle due to the limited available human resources. ICTs are the primary resource for overcoming these constraints and are a set of technologies that provide support services at different stages of student learning in distance learning systems.

3. Asynchronous and Synchronous:

Media Asynchronous online systems allow participants to interact with each other, not all participants online at the same time, including blogs, wikis, and discussion forums. In contrast, synchronization systems require everyone to be involved, including chat rooms and video conferencing. Face-to-face communication between instructors and distance learners on the Internet is a new methodological trend in e-learning, where computers with Internet facilities are needed and they can talk to each other, and students can learn from teachers, obtain guidance and instructors can instruct the learner. It not only allows students to communicate in real-time to discuss courses of course, but it allows easier access to the teacher to communicate and clarify the subject of discussion. The experience of distance learning students in learning asynchronous and synchronous interactive media, and students reported that synchronous media helped them better understand and interact with their classmates. Further research reported that their distributed learning experiences positively influenced their participation and learning.

4. Learning Management System:

The Learning Management System (LMS) is a software application for managing, documenting, reporting and tracking guidance programs, classroom and online activities, e-learning programs and training content. The learning management system has several definitions, and the basic description is a software application that automates the management, tracking, and reporting of training events. It provides educational content and resources for distance learners. Distance learning students have access to learning content and management wherever they are.

5. Social Networking:

In the field of distance education, social networking sites are playing a large role, through the use of these services; students can easily communicate with their mentors and peers, and can get

a lot to solve their problems. A social networking site is defined as a website that provides an opportunity for a user to increase the level of communication by connecting to each other and sharing personal content as features of the basic characteristics of the online community. Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Skype, Twitter and Oovoo are common social networking services that play an important role in reducing the isolation of distance learners.

6. Mobile Learning:

Mobile technologies, such as mobile phones, have great promise for distance education as a cognitive delivery tool to enhance interactive collaborative learning while addressing the challenges of student isolation. The term mobile learning refers to the use of mobile and handheld IT devices, such as personal digital assistants. Mobile learning via SMS helps to reduce the distance between mental and communicative spaces that are often confronted by distance learners in geographic distance and time separation.

7. Digital Libraries:

The digital library provides answers to most information access questions for distance learners. A digital library is a collection of documents in organized electronic form, available on the Internet or on CD-ROM. Depending on the specific library, users may be able to access magazines, articles and books, papers, images, sound files, and videos. The digitization of academic materials is one of the many initiatives taken by the global distance learning community to facilitate the wide access and availability of such materials.

8. World Wide Web:

Web 2.0 technology provides the power to evolve as academic professionals modify learning techniques and methods. Web 2.0 can theoretically develop learning experiences by promoting group reactions, obtaining outside experts, or by encouraging and shaping communities of practice. Some examples include web-based communities, hosted services, web applications, social networking sites, video sharing sites, wikis, and blogs. It facilitates distance learners and teachers to enjoy a more vibrant educational experience at a lower cost and with more effective face-to-face learning.