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Surveying the Role of Virtual and E-learning in Bushehr City High School Teachers' Knowledge Learning and Promoting

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Abstract

The aim of this paper is to survey the role of virtual and e-learning in Blusher City High school Teachers' knowledge learning and promoting to improve organizational decision-making. Data was collected from 132 teachers (40 female and 92 male ones) working in Blusher City high schools. A researcher-structured questionnaire containing 36 questions and having an acceptable reliability ($\alpha=0.82$) was applied to measure the data and a descriptive and inferential statistics such as frequency, percent, Standard Deviation, multiple regression, Chi Square were used to analyse the collected data. Findings showed that there would be a positively significant relationship between virtual and e-learning and the teachers' accuracy of decision-making, appropriateness of decision-making and on-time decision-making.

Keywords: Learning; Organizational decision-making; Virtual and e-learning education

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1. Introduction

Today, skilled and self-sufficient Human Resource is known as the most significant factor for social dynamism, so Human Resource Management needs to make an able system to train staff and try to coordinate them with the latest scientific methods (Kashiha, 2006).

Virtual education is one of the common methods in various countries. Increasing in facilities and Internet accessibility has played an important role though it is somehow a new way. Tuffler believes that the most important activity to cope with huge changes in the future life for accepting any change is just to train staff. Today, training and improving Human Resource is concerned as one of the main strategies for organizations to make positive status. Organizational life depends on various knowledge and staff skills and it is clear the better and more on-time, the more organizational congruence with its Internal and external context (Ghaffarian, 2004).

Virtual learning consists of all kind of educations using electronic devices such as audio, visual, computeric, and network. Virtual learning is a new phenomenon for newly world view while not being known well yet. It in fact is a way of distance learning (Aghayar, 2007).

Zargar (2011) emphasises on the significance of virtual learning through his studies and believes that virtual learning, as a modern technology, must be familiarised, localised and applied effectively in any country.

This paper is to survey the role of virtual and e-learning in Bushehr City High school Teachers' knowledge learning and promoting.

2. Literature Review

Technology has changed all aspects of human beings' life and computers followed by Internet and World Wide Web cause another type of training and educational spaces for learners, students, and even teachers (Yarigar, 2002).

Distance learning dates on ancient times and it is believed that Plato and his dominant follower, Dyonis could have found some way of learning virtually though some evidence indicates that the distance learning was done through post offices by sending educational materials in 1728. From that time till now, various types of learning has been performed including prescriptive, directive, academic ones but distance learning based on new methods using modern computeric technology such as internet has made a new way of learning open known as virtual and e-learning and caused human being feel free to contact and communicate for getting new information more than before (Abtahi, 1994).

Real development of e-learning started in 1990's. Today, the traditional learning process and structure is no longer appropriate for human society needs in the Internet era; therefore, individuals need increasing learning to make themselves congruent with continual changes (Rashidi, 1992).

Although e-learning uses World Wide Web, it is never limited by it and there would be some other ways for e-learning such as non-presence learning, distance learning, self-learning, web-based and computer-based learning (Samkhanian, 2005).

Slowman (2005) emphasises that virtual learning is a way of learning in which an opportunity is prepared for learners and teacher to learn without having any concern about space and time since this kind of learning is applied through using computer, Communication Technology and Internet to fill the existing gap.

Zamani (2002) says that virtual learning is related to the learning through Internet while Feizi (2005) believes that virtual learning uses network to enable those who depend upon Internet technologies just for learning.

Progress of Technology, specifically IT, has caused many changes in the field of e-learning and training. Some factors such as the decrease of education cost, easiness in the presence in on-line classes, courses diversity, and time of the class, flexibility in e-learning and decreasing in the cost of classes as well could have helped participants to enjoy their time and classes. Fattahian (2004) believes that e-learning in Iran is a new industry in educational technology and distance learning but educational centres and institutions along with universities are trying to choose and follow a suitable pattern with an appropriate structure based on Iranian culture.

Studying the effect of e-learning on Jihad Organization staff learning, Akbari (2010) stated that when staff would not be motivated to learn through such a simple way of learning, the organization would lose its resources and the staff would not be eager to innovate or create any valuable organizational feature.

Abdi (2012) surveyed the administrative systems in Iran and claimed that the main factor for making e-learning successful in universities would be the infrastructure and required standards in advanced while using successful countries leading in e-learning.

Hasimoto (2009) believes that Human resources are the most strategic and important factor in any organization. An organization would never be successful without skilled staff even though having too much equipment and facilities. He continues that success of any organization in different areas depends on having an e-learning system along with dynamic human resources.

Jalali, et al. (2010) states that education is a main base of sustainable development in any country and e-learning is today the most modern, effective and certain methods in developing organizational and individual learning. New system of e-learning has brought up unique benefits for both individuals and educational organizations.

Khorasani et al. (2010) believes that the big benefit of e-learning is that the learner has to learn what he or she must learn and she or he becomes familiar with those devices and equipment by which he or she must apply. He continues that e-learning is an effective way of learning motivationally since a learner can witness his or her success while doing works.

Shafie (2011) believes that it is the exact time to change our approach towards staff learning and improving. Learning and improving staff through e-learning can play a vital role in protection of human capital and can be the primary factor to identify quality and sufficiency of governmental services for society.

3. Research Hypothesis

Virtual and e-learning is effective in learning and promoting Blusher City High School teachers' decision-making.

Virtual and e-learning is effective in improving and accuracy of Blusher City High School teachers' decision-making.

Virtual and e-learning is effective in improving and appropriateness of Blusher City High School teachers' decision-making.

Virtual and e-learning is effective in improving and on-time of Blusher City High School teachers' decision-making.

4. Research Methodology

This is a descriptive study and is going to survey the role of virtual and e-learning in Bushehr City High school Teachers' knowledge learning and promoting. Data was collected from 132 teachers (40 female and 92 male ones) working in Blusher City high schools. A researcher-structured questionnaire containing 36 questions was applied to measure the data. Validity and reliability of the questionnaire was measured according to content validity and based on Chronbach's Alpha ($\alpha=0.82$). To sum and analyse the findings, descriptive and inferential statistics were used such as frequency, percent, Standard Deviation, multiple regression, Chi Square.

5. Findings

Table 1. Frequency and Percent of participants based on gender and organizational positions

| | | Frequency | Percent | Total |
|----------|-------------|-----------|---------|-------|
| Gender | Female | 40 | 30.3 | 132 |
| | Male | 92 | 69.7 | |
| Position | Responsible | 29 | 22.0 | 132 |

Table 2. Frequency and Percent of participants based on-time of computer usage

| | Frequency | Percent |
|-------------|-----------|---------|
| 0-3 hours | 70 | 53 |
| 4-12 hours | 48 | 36.4 |
| 13-15 hours | 14 | 10.6 |
| Total | 132 | 100 |

Table 3. Correlation Coefficient of Variables

| | Learning | Accuracy | Appropriateness | On-Time |
|-----------------|----------|----------|-----------------|---------|
| Learning | 1 | 0.58 | 0.66 | 0.69 |
| Accuracy | 0.58 | 1 | 0.77 | 0.63 |
| Appropriateness | 0.66 | 0.77 | 1 | 0.81 |
| On-Time | 0.69 | 0.63 | 0.81 | 1 |

Table 4. Attitude of participants towards virtual and e-learning on decision-making

| | Accuracy | | Appropriateness | | On-time | |
|----------|----------|------|-----------------|------|---------|------|
| | N | P | N | P | N | P |
| Positive | 94 | 71.2 | 109 | 82.9 | 111 | 84.1 |
| Negative | 38 | 28.8 | 23 | 17.4 | 21 | 15.9 |
| Total | 132 | 100 | 132 | 100 | 132 | 100 |
| df | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | |
| χ^2 | 23.76 | | 56.03 | | 61.36 | |
| P | <0.000 | | <0.000 | | <0.000 | |

6. Figure

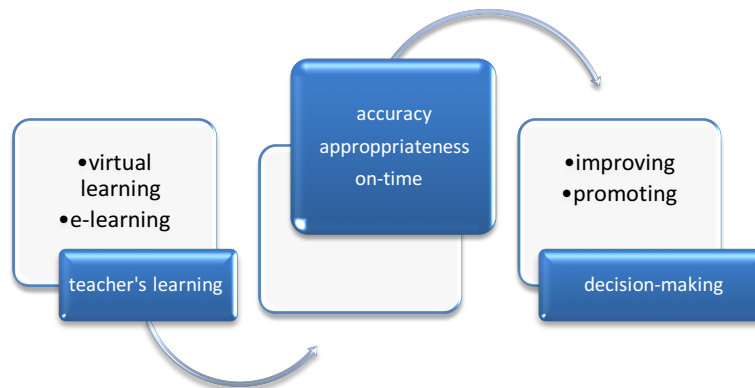


Figure 1. The impact of virtual and e-learning on teachers' decision-making

7. Discussion and Conclusion

Findings obtained from all of the hypotheses showed that there would be a positively significant relationship between virtual and e-learning in Bushehr City High School Teachers' knowledge learning and promoting; namely, it can be said the more accurate, appropriate, and on-time decision, the more promoting and improving.

Regarding virtual and e-learning could affect positively the accuracy, appropriateness and on-time decisions made by teachers, planning and informing should be concluded to institutionalise the role and status of virtual and e-learning among teachers.

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