ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF ONLINE LEARNING.

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ABSTRACT

The globalization flow of changing is becoming faster and faster. One of the important changings that affect the modern world of higher education is disruptive technology, especially online learning. In fact, online learning has been offered both formal ways and informal ways. General public can use online learning by paying money or non-paying money. Specifically, the objectives of this study were to investigate the advantages and disadvantages of online learning as well as to examine the opportunities and challenges faced by the higher education institutions. This study utilized qualitative method. The population of the study included many staff and faculty members from many different universities who were involved with various form of online learning programs. The sample group were about 30 staff and faculty members who were willing to be in focus group and subject to an in-depth interview. The interview protocol consisted of four general domains: listening, gramma, comprehension, and vocabulary. The findings of the study revealed that online learning programs were becoming a significant part of higher education learning and training. However, the success rate of learning online without close monitoring were very low. The advantages included low cost, flexible time, and mass audiences, whereas, the disadvantages included low success rate, easily distracts, and no class interaction.

Keywords: Online Learning, Disruptive Technology, Higher Education

INTRODUCTION

The modern era of disruptive innovation and information technology, the success of online learning is vital to the development of the higher education institutions. In fact, the success of online learning is under many influences of determinants both internal and external environment of higher education. Some of internal factors include qualification of faculty members, the prior knowledge of students, basic self-disciplinary, management policies, job description, working conditions, social behavior, and so forth. Other factors of external factors are also important such as perceived opportunities, specific targets or goal of life, family conditions, health, and so forth. However, the major discussing about important factors that can lead to high level of satisfaction of learning and accomplishment. The same factors may have either positive impacts or negative impacts to the perception of students depends on their attitude, value, and belief. In other words, students in the environment of more online learning in the organization are under tremendous influence of these factors that can cause high level of satisfaction it the learning method suits with their needs and wants and be a proper solution for them.

The globalization flow of changing of knowledge and information is becoming faster and faster. There are many forms of disruption to the flow of information technology. The traditional way of learning is still working under specific conditions but the modern online learning provide many benefit to both instructors and learners with speed and low cost of money and time. It is widely accepted that one of the important changings and have global impacts and affect the modern world of higher education is disruptive technology or changing

in abrupt technology that have impacts to consumer behavior changing, especially online learning and online shopping. In fact, it is well-known that online learning has been offered both formal ways and informal ways. General public can use online learning method either by paying money or non-paying money. Specifically, the objectives of this study were to further th investigate the advantages and disadvantages of online learning as well as to examine the opportunities and challenges faced by the higher education institutions.

METHODOLOGY

In order to find the answers for the research questions and research objectives, it is important to follow five important steps of conducting this study: first is to define research problems, second is to set up research objectives or aims, third is to focus on the qualitative method, fourth is to sum up and obtain results and discussion, and finally is to offer valuable and easy to implement suggestions. In order to obtain the findings and answers to this research objectives, a qualitative research study was chosen for the purposes. The study was conducted by utilizing an in-depth interviewing with 12 informants who have some experiences dealing with online learning in the office. Six of them were managers of small business and institutions of learning, whereas, the other six were from academic and policy makers who involved with the works of small business and government policy. The sample group were asked to provide detailed information on the characteristics of pros and cons of online learning and the actions they did that either resolve the problems or causes the problem as well as how to handle problems in online learning. Contextual analysis and both primary data and secondary data from focus group and findings of previously researches were also complying for data analysis and to reach the findings and discussion.

| Research problems | Research purposes | Qualitative method | Results and discussion | Suggestions |
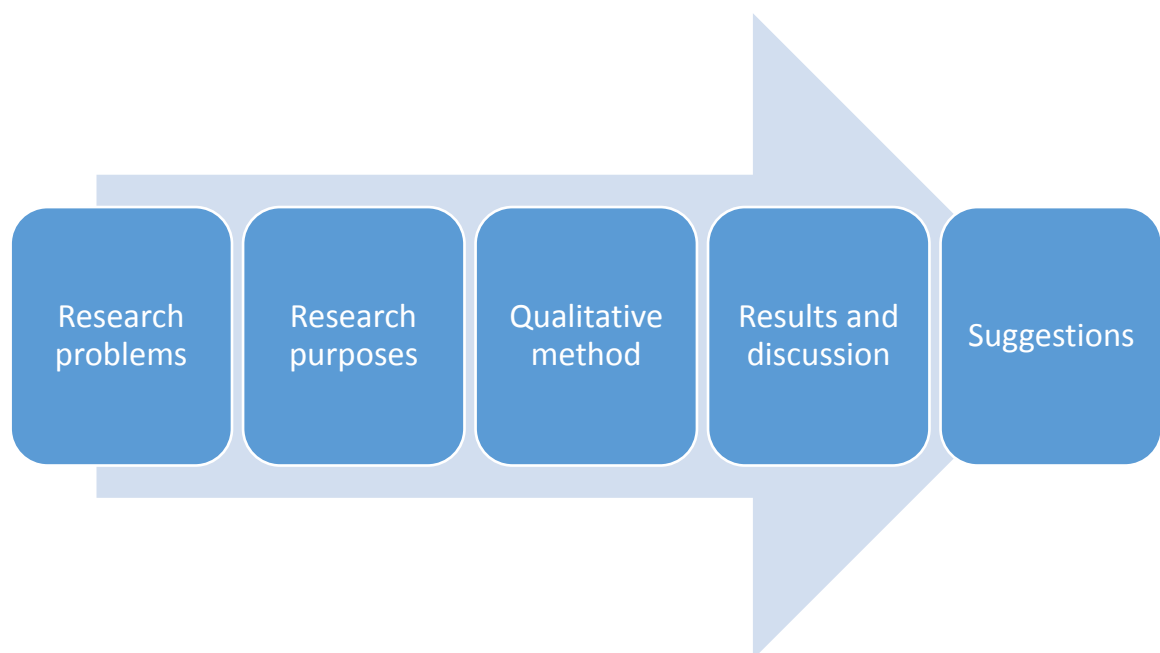
FINDINGS

From the in-depth interview, the findings of the study found the most important advantages of online leaning and working from home by using online system is an increase in flexibility of working to achieve the goals and objectives as well as the reduction of time and cost from the flexibility of learning online at anywhere, anyplace, and anytime. In fact, online

learning is becoming more and more popular among local students and international students around the world due to the benefits are more than the old learning system. In addition, many other studies has showed that the average students with online learning conditions have performed as good as or better than the average students in the traditional classroom. The major disadvantage of online learning is from the old image of online learning that may be negative or not rigorous enough. However, the disadvantage has been proofed again and again that is not valid. The second most important disadvantage is that there is no social interaction. This is true especially in undergraduate level or young students that should have friends and social interaction between people in the same age. The third disadvantages is about the number of courses teaching online are not enough and some courses are required students to do activities, practice, and skill building in classroom.

From the focus group discussion, it can be reported from the experiences of the small but high experience of online knowledge focus group that offered the benefits of online learning with the ideas of working at home.

1. Save cost of commuting and travelling to gain the knowledge
2. Save time of commuting and travelling to seek knowledge and skills
3. No need to suffer from traffic jams and set up time
4. Gain extra time to gain more knowledge and review
5. Allow many benefits of flexibility of work and method of learning
6. Be able to use extra time or coffee break time to take care of household and family
7. Save cost and time for dress and dress code
8. Learning on your own pace
9. Progress depends on level of self-disciplinary and self-motivation
10. More benefits with the changing and new trend of working with new world of business

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