Sociology of Education

Designing an Efficient Virtual Education Pattern in Farhangian University

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Purpose: Due to the growth and evolution of information and communication technology, the methods of education have also undergone extensive changes. Therefore, the present research was conducted with the aim of designing an efficient virtual education pattern in Farhangian University.

Methodology: This research in terms of purpose and implementation method was applied and descriptive from type of exploratory, respectively. The current study population were included all managers and professors of Farhangian universities in Khorasan Razavi province including six Pardis in 2021 year. The samples of the present study according to the principle of theoretical saturation were determined 13 people who after checking the inclusion criteria were selected by purposive sampling method. The data of this study were collected by semi-structured interview (validity was confirmed by triangulation method and reliability was obtained by Cohen's Kappa coefficient 0.87) and analyzed by thematic analysis and three rounds of Delphi.

Findings: According to the analysis of the interviews, the efficient virtual education pattern in Farhangian University had 71 sub themes in the form of 12 main themes. In this study, the main themes were included pedagogical factors, technological factors, organizational factors, integrated management, foresight, purposive educational quality, measurability, flexibility in education, support services, knowledge management, ease of access and information and content. Also, after the first round of Delphi, 9 sub themes and after the second round of Delphi 6 sub themes were removed from the efficient virtual education pattern in Farhangian University, and in the third round of Delphi all the sub themes were evaluated as appropriate. As a result, the final pattern of efficient virtual education in Farhangian University had 56 sub themes in the form of 12 main themes, and the pattern of its main themes was drawn.

Conclusion: The managers, officials and planners of Farhangian University according to the designed efficient virtual education pattern in Farhangian University can improve the conditions to improve the current state of education, especially virtual education in this university.

Extended Abstract

Purpose: Universities are one of the important organizations that have a strategic role in advancing the country's goals, and they are expected to produce knowledge and work hard to train specialized and committed personnel, and universities are the source of transformation in any country. Undoubtedly, the present age is the age of information and communication technology, and in this age, people more than ever need information and communication. Because information and communication technology has been able to create significant changes and transformations in human life in a short time. Universities are organizations that in every society have great responsibilities, such as research and production of new knowledge, preservation and transfer of cultural heritage, consolidation of moral and social foundations of students, creation of skills, etc. Considering the environmental conditions and wide responsibilities of universities and improve their efficiency and review and modify their structure it is necessary. Farhangian University is one of the most important universities of Iran, and the importance of teachers as the architects of the future generation of the society requires that an environment be provided where the most intelligent and skilled people of the society are employed in this job. In education, no transformation will end in success, unless there is a change in teachers' working methods first. The field of education is one of the most important infrastructures of comprehensive excellence in the country and a serious tool in the direction of promoting the worthy human capital of the country in various fields. Therefore, the realization of the lofty ideals of the Islamic Revolution of Iran is like the revival of the great Islamic civilization, constructive presence, active and progressive presence among the nations and preparation for establishing justice and spirituality in the world. The virtual education is one of the important applications of information and communication technology in today's world, and despite all the problems in virtual education, the changes and developments of globalization have led to the quantitative and qualitative development of such education. The use of virtual education tools, which represent text-based education in the form of multimedia delivery through web-based distribution, is one of the new opportunities that information and communication technology has provided to the educational system. The virtual education is an effective method that uses information and communication technology in education with a combination of electronic content to provide a reliable and efficient communication platform that people can use at any time and place them want. The virtual learning environments have the capacity to create opportunities for active, flexible, and enhanced learning experiences, and the previously slow-starting process of virtualization of education has accelerated with the Covid-19 pandemic. The most important advantages of virtual education were included the following. Reducing educational costs, teaching anywhere and everywhere with using the computers and Internet, covering a large number of data seekers, reproducibility of materials, tracking students' activities, changing the teaching system from teacher-centered to student-centered and interactive educational methods which in it the share information freely and realizing comprehensive vision in an environment that is carried out under the supervision of a professor. By using the virtual education, it is possible to overcome some obstacles of conventional education and provide easy and flexible access to learning, which on the one hand provides quick access to a large amount of information without time and place limitations for learners living in remote areas, and on the other hand it reduces the cost of commuting, waste of time and the interference of training time with the working hours of employees and provides the basis for creating and increasing learning motivation. The virtual education has the potential to confront the educational system by expanding educational opportunities, changing the population of learners, encouraging to the development of new educational methods, making the teaching and learning process more reliable and efficient, and reducing the stress of learners. Due to the growth and evolution of information and communication technology, the methods of education have also undergone extensive changes. Therefore, the present research was conducted with the aim of designing an efficient virtual education pattern in Farhangian University.

Methodology: This research in terms of purpose and implementation method was applied and descriptive from type of exploratory, respectively. The current study population were included all managers and professors of Farhangian universities in Khorasan Razavi province including six Pardis in 2021 year. The samples of the present study according to the principle of theoretical saturation were determined 13 people who after checking the inclusion criteria were selected by purposive sampling method. In this study, the criteria for entering the study were included theoretical mastery of the current research field, practical experience at Farhangian University, willingness and ability to participate in research, having experience as a faculty member at the university for 10 years or more, at least a doctoral degree, availability and having enough time to participate in the research. The data of this study in addition to the demographic information form including gender, degree, field of expertise, job history and age were collected by semi-structured interview (validity was confirmed by triangulation method and reliability was obtained by Cohen's Kappa coefficient 0.87) and analyzed by thematic analysis and three rounds of Delphi.

Findings: According to the analysis of the interviews, the efficient virtual education pattern in Farhangian University had 71 sub themes in the form of 12 main themes. In this study, the main themes were included pedagogical factors, technological factors, organizational factors, integrated management, foresight, purposive educational quality, measurability, flexibility in education, support services, knowledge management, ease of access and information and content. Also, after the first round of Delphi, 9 sub themes and after the second round of Delphi 6 sub themes were removed from the efficient virtual education pattern in Farhangian University, and in the third round of Delphi all the sub themes were evaluated as appropriate. As a result, the final pattern of efficient virtual education in Farhangian University had 56 sub themes in the form of 12 main themes, and the pattern of its main themes was drawn.

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