The Effectiveness of E-Learning in Light of the Spread of the Corona Pandemic From Teaching Staff Perspectives in the University College of Addayer, Jazan University

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Abstract

This study aimed to reveal the effectiveness of e-learning in light of the spread of the Corona pandemic from the faculty member's perspectives at the University College of Addayer- Jazan University - Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. To achieve the objectives of the study, the descriptive and analytical approach was applied. Data related to the study literature was also collected from various sources such as books, published research and scholarly periodicals related to the effects of the Corona pandemic on teaching and learning process. The essential data was also collected using a questionnaire, and it was applied to the study sample. The study sample consisted of (35) faculty members from various specializations including nursing, math, and English at the University College of Addayer who taught during the period of the Coronavirus outbreak through e-learning system. The results of the study revealed that the evaluation of the effectiveness of e-learning in light of the spread of the Corona virus from the faculty members perspectives was very high, their evaluation of the field of intensive training by the university on the blackboard was high too, their evaluation of the field of obstacles to e-learning was moderate, and their evaluation of the scopes of interaction of both faculty members and students with e-learning was very high. Thus, the study recommended holding training courses in the field of e-learning for both faculty members and female students, helping them to get rid of all obstacles that hinder the various methods of using e-learning system, and using the flexible learning to merge between the traditional education and e-learning in higher education institutions in the present and future.

INTRODUCTION

The University College in Addayer is one of the colleges of Jazan University that has gone through the experience of e-learning in light of the spread of the Corona virus. Also, this study came to show the effectiveness of e-learning in light of the spread of this pandemic from faculty members perspectives. This pandemic also affected different aspects of life that played an important role in affecting the outputs and efficiency of educational systems in the region. The importance of the results of this study lies in improving the performance of the e-learning system at the University College of Addayer. Besides, it can develop the capabilities of the professional and scientific faculty members in using different types of e-learning and developing future plans to go to e-learning as a precautionary measure to confront epidemics and disasters. The results and recommendations of the study can also be used in improving the effectiveness of e-learning system in the rest of the colleges of Jazan University. The research derives its importance because it is contemporary for a realistic phenomenon, which is the spread of the Corona virus in the region and all over the world.

THE STUDY OBJECTIVES

• To reveal the effectiveness of e-learning from the faculty members perspectives at the University College of

Addayer – Jazan University in light of the spread of the Corona pandemic.

• To measure the level of intensive training courses on the blackboard system.

- To discover obstacles that hinder the use of e-learning system.

• To identify the level of interaction of both faculty members and female students with e-learning system at the University College of Addayer – Jazan University.

• To offer solutions and useful data to overcome these obstacles.

THE IMPORTANCE OF STUDY

The importance of the study lies in:

• Seeking to know the effectiveness of e-learning at the University College of Addayer affiliated to the University of Jazan in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, relying on the opinions of the faculty members in this regard.

• The importance of this study is to present a clear and practical conception of the reality of the significance of using modern technologies in the college, as e-learning is a modern trend that educational institutions seek to use and develop, especially in light of the spread of this pandemic that has plagued the world.

• The importance of this study is in line with scientific and technological progress in the world at large, as e-learning has replaced traditional education and has become applied in schools, universities and other educational institutions around the world especially in the spread of the Corona virus.

HYPOTHESIS

The study suggests the success of the effectiveness of e-learning in light of the spread of the Corona pandemic due to the response of both faculty members and students and their interaction with e-learning, which reflected on the success of e-learning in the University College of Addayer , Jazan University . Therefore, there is an urgent need to know and evaluate the effectiveness of e-learning, the extent to which it achieves the objectives of education, and its ability to meet the needs of female students in light of the spread of the Corona pandemic in the region. This study will provide answers to some questions such as, is intensive training considered a factor in the success of e-learning? Do the obstacles of e-learning affect the success of the educational process? Also, what is the rate of interaction of both faculty members and female students with e-learning in light of the spread of the Corona virus?

LITERATURE REVIEW

In 2020, Muftahu showed in his study about the spread of the Corona virus, which led to the imposition of total

ban in the region and the imposition of the application of social distance among individuals as one of the preventive measures to limit the spread of this pandemic that has spread across the world. Especially, the traditional education system has been completely closed and transitioned to e-learning. The universities in all over the world were closed as a current response to the Corona epidemic that has caused a learning disruption, but it also affected opportunities for pursuing distance learning in addition to immediate and long-term changes that could transform the public education system beyond the coronavirus pandemic for the better. Based on the best practices of higher education institutions and universities in other developing countries, this study recommended African universities and higher education institutions to improving their technological infrastructure to enhance internet capabilities in order to initiate policy implementation concerning the introduction of online education in African universities (Muftahu , 2020, p. 421).

Rice aimed in his study to identify the role of online learning as more active and attractive for both students and teachers. This study indicates that training courses that contained direct conversations between students and teachers, forums where users can evaluate messages based on their importance. And online workshops that enable students to evaluate each other's work, opinion polls that allow teachers to evaluate students' views on providing educational activities and guides for teachers to upload and share their files (Rice , 2015, p. 5 (.

This article clarifies the extent of the suffering of most countries due to this pandemic, as more than 1.2 billion students in 186 countries have been affected by schools closure. The government's policies of managing this crisis differed at the educational level, and there have been many questions about the role of home education, the chance of e-learning, and the possibility of its continuation after the end of the pandemic and its impact on the education sector at the global level. Therefore, the controversy about e-learning in the world included a review of the educational system itself, the role of exams, methods of indoctrination and memorization, and also focusing on future skills such as critical thinking, programming, flexibility, interpersonal skills, and the potential role of online education in treating the problems inherent in the educational system (Corona pandemic is an opportunity to reinvent the future of education, 2020).

Muhammad Fuad proved in his study that the world has become a small village, the internet has transcended and abolished geographical and regional boundaries, and erased isolation with strange and multiple benefits that play a fundamental role in our life. Thus, the internet became a new method that jumped knowledge and various sciences from limited to comprehensive and the modern communication became during these days as electronic communication. Thereupon, the information technology in the computer, Internet, and multimedia became the most

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successful means to provide an interactive educational environment to attract students' interest and encourage them to exchange views and experiences where the strength of the Internet lies in its ability to connect among people over huge distances. The use of this technology also increases the learning opportunities, and extends it beyond the scope of schools, and this is called e-learning (Al-Hawamdeh, 2011, p. 805).

Moreover, Soha showed that e-learning is one of the modern methods in the current century that contributes to increase the effectiveness of learners, and enable them to assume greater responsibility as the learner becomes more able to discover, analyze, synthesize and acquire high-level learning skills (Hosamo , 2011, p. 245). Olszewska (2020) explains the reasons of the spread of the Coronavirus epidemic on the educational process that led universities around the world to transfer their teaching and learning completely to the internet environment. This means using the e-learning model on an unprecedented scale in order to continue the educational process to limit the spread of this pandemic among learners and academic teachers too.This study proved that the transformation of traditional classrooms into online platforms has a major role in maintaining communication between students and the university and the correct and uninterrupted path of teaching and learning processes, while maintaining safety rules (Olszewska, 2020, p. 109).

Dhawan aimed at finding out the reasons for which the entire world being subjected to quarantine due to the spread of the Corona pandemic. Thus, many cities have turned into imaginary cities and their effects can be seen in schools, colleges and universities as well. This study also made it clear that online teaching and learning can be described as a solution for this crisis. The Corona virus has made these institutions switch from traditional education to online education, which made these institutions accept modern technology. Many universities around the world have completely digitized their processes to understand the urgent need for this current situation, so improving the quality of teaching and online learning is critical at this stage (Dhawan, 2020, p. 7).

This study conducted by researchers in the field of education and psychology. It explained the cognitive and preventive components of public health from epidemics such as the Covid-19 epidemic. Moreover, it has gained the importance and priority of research because of its link to the public health system. This study, which was focused on the cognitive, health and ethical aspects, came as an attempt to confront the inevitable global human destiny that requires all countries of the world to initiate projects and develop strategies to increase health, psychological , social awareness and combating dangerous diseases and epidemics that threaten human life. Including the Corona virus, which has been continuing to kill thousands of lives daily. There is no doubt that e-learning is one of the scenarios that countries of the world have resorted to face

the spread of the Corona pandemic so that the educational process does not stop (Amani M., et al., 2o2o, p. 1-3).

The United Nations has seen the rapid responses by governments and partners around the world about using e-learning to limit the spread of the Coronavirus. It gave full support for the continuity of education around the world, including the Global Education Alliance called by UNESCO. The solutions based on distance learning have been developed. Also, we have been reminded of the essential role that teachers , governments and other major partners have an important duty to take care of workers in the educational field (United Nations, 2020).

The results of the spread of the Corona pandemic were very bad and they led to the sudden suspension of schools, colleges, universities and government institutions in all over the world. Because of this crisis, teachers have resorted to using e-learning platforms to convey education to students. E-learning refers to an educational system that was conducted via electronic media. It was first used in 1999 and described as virtual or online learning. It provided a way to share reading material using the Internet through emails, documents, presentations, or webinars (Dineshkumar Soni, 2020, p. 4).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study was a descriptive and analytical. Data was collected from various sources such as books, published research and scholarly periodicals related to the effects of the Corona pandemic on the teaching and learning process, and then a questionnaire. The study tool is a questionnaire that was checked and approved by a committee of the college teaching staff. It was distributed to a wide range of the study sample, the faculty members (35) of the University College – Addayer, Jazan University in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The questionnaire consisted in its final form of (22) items corresponding to a five-point scale (strongly agree = 5, agree = 4, neutral = 3, disagree = 2, strongly disagree = 1). The items of the questionnaire are divided into four areas:

• Intensive Training on the blackboard : This field included (5) items

• .Obstacles to e-learning: This field included (6) items.

• Interaction of Faculty members with e-learning: This field included (5) items.

• Interaction of female students with e-learning: This field included (6) items.

ANALYSIS OF QUESTIONNAIRES

The following figures have been analyzed precisely to know the accurate answers of staff members in terms of intensive training on the blackboard, obstacles to e-learning, interaction of Faculty members with e-learning and interaction of female students with e-learning.
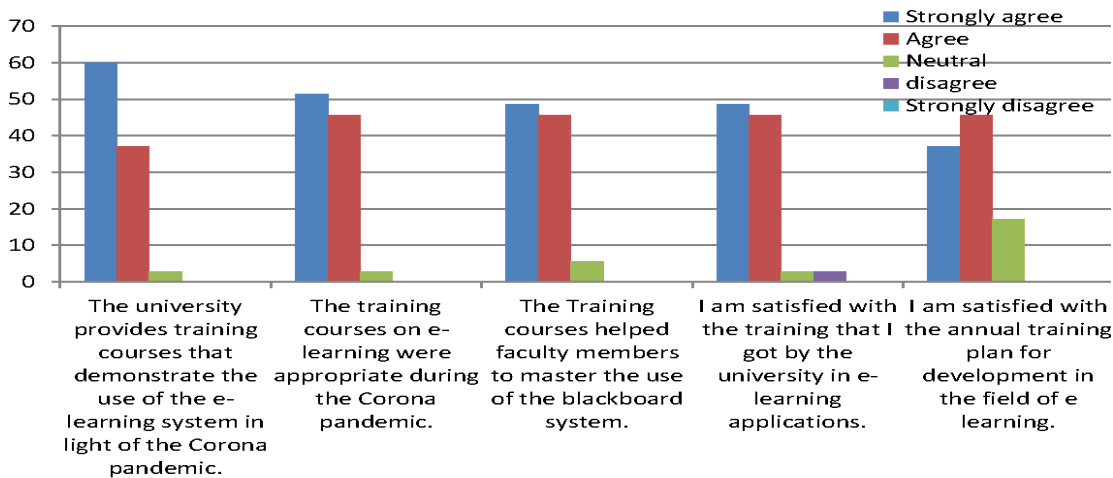
Figure 1
Intensive training on the blackboard systm

According to the first area of the questionnaire, the intensive training on the blackboard system, the university college of Addayer and Jazan University provided training courses on the use of e-learning system positively in a high proportion of (60%). The training courses were appropriate, as they obtained in proportion of (51.4%), and helping teaching staff and female students in using the blackboard system effectively, which were reflected in the success of the educational process in proportion of (48.6%) for the response strongly agree. The members were also satisfied with the training they received and the annual training plan of the college in the field of e-learning in proportion of (37.1%, and 45.7 %) for both responses strongly agree and agree respectively.
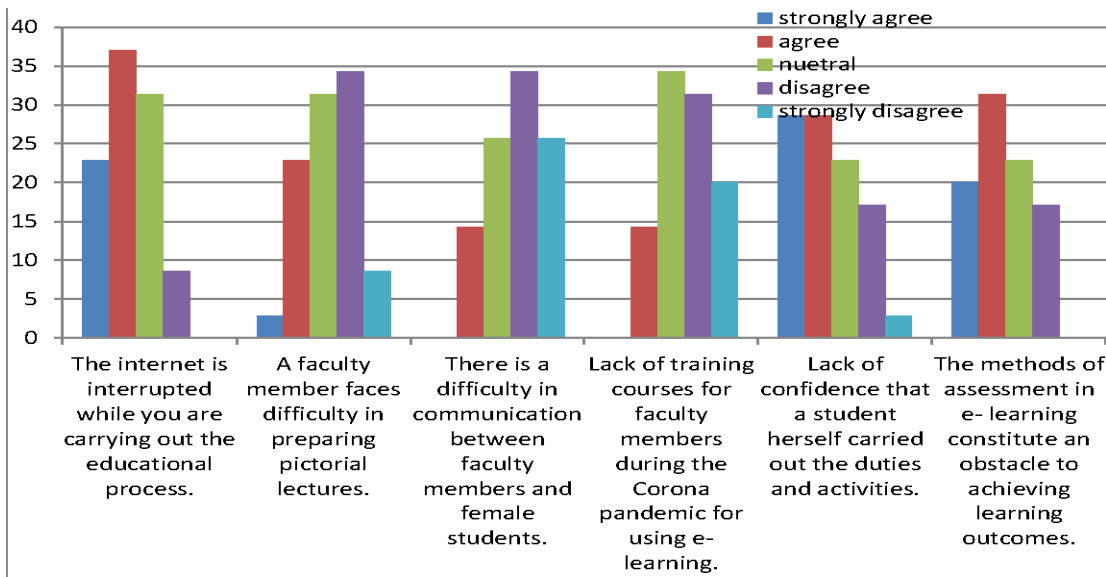

Figure 2
Barriers to e-learning

The following figure proved that there are a set of obstacles that hinder e-learning process at the University College of Addayer, including the network disruption especially in remote mountainous regions in proportion of (22.9%), and (37.1%) for both responses strongly agree and agree respectively. Also, the lack of reliability of the student that herself has implemented activities and duties in proportion of (28.6%) for both responses strongly agree and agree. The assessment methods and tools of e-learning have represented a disturbing obstacle in the way of achieving learning outcomes in proportion of (20%) ,and (31.4%) for both strongly agree and agree respectively. The study sample (faculty members) proved that the difficulty of preparing pictorial lectures, the difficulty of communication between members and students, and the lack of training courses did not represent obstacles from the perspective of staff members in proportion of (34.3%, 34.3%, and 31.4%) for one response disagree respectively.
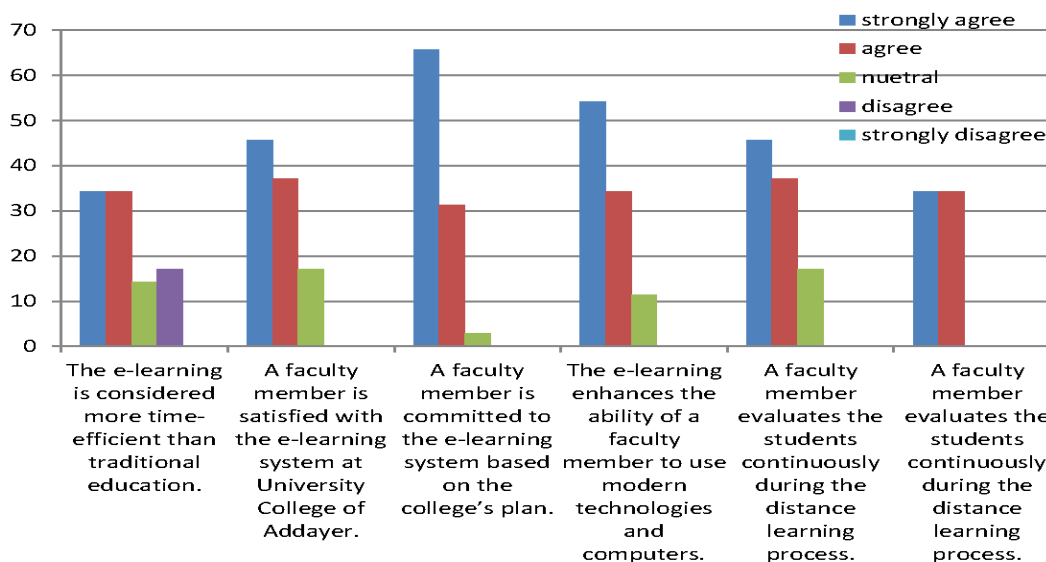
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Figure 3
Inteaction of faculty members with e-learning

According to this figure, the study sample showed that the e-learning helped staff members to utilize more time than traditional education in proportion of (34.3%). They also feel satisfied with the e-learning system and what the e-learning unit was doing in the college in proportion of (45.7%). Besides, the analysis of the questionnaire indicated that the response of the faculty members and their commitment to the college's plan was positively in proportion of (65.7%). The study sample indicated that the e-learning enhanced staff members' professional capabilities in using modern technologies in a high proportion of (54.3%), and the faculty members made the necessary assessments for female students continuously in proportion of (45.7%).
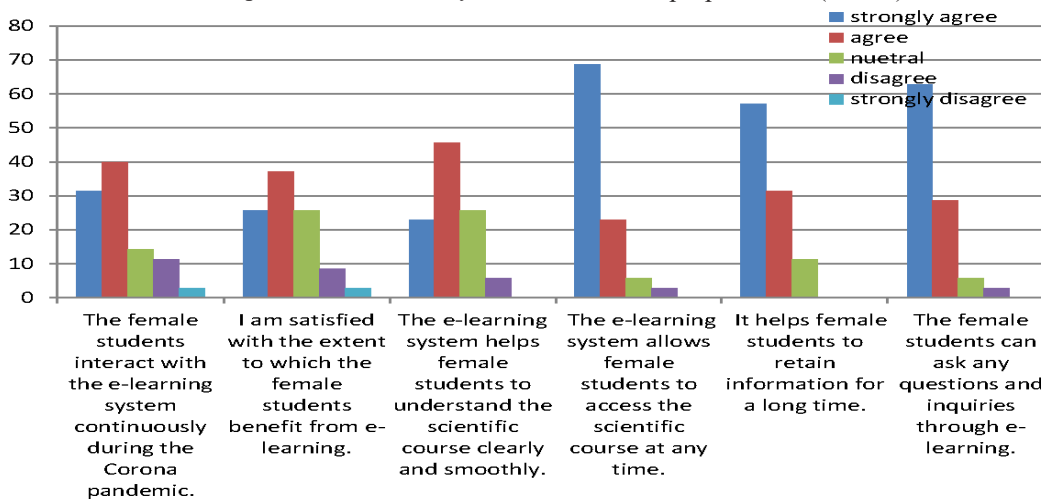

Figure 4
Interaction of female students with e-learning

By analyzing the questionnaire, the female students interacted with e-learning system during the Corona pandemic effectively in a high proportion of (40%, and 31.4%) for both responses strongly agree and agree respectively. The teaching staff also proved that e-learning allows students to access the scientific material at any time, helping them to retain information for a longer period, and students can ask questions and inquiries easily in a high proportion of (68.6%, 57.1%, and 62.9%) respectively. The faculty members felt satisfied with the extent to which students benefited from e-learning in proportion of (37.1%), and they believed that the e-learning system helping students to understand the scientific course in proportion of (45.7%).

The analysis of average mean of the four fields indicated the effective success of the training obtained by staff members and female students positively in the framework of the transformation to e-learning in light of the Corona pandemic, which included the use of e-learning and its various tools and means in a high proportion of (49.14%). Moreover, the faculty members proved that there were three obstacles that hindered e-learning system

in the college from the total of 6 suggested obstacles in the questionnaire in a proportion of (12.4%) for the response of strongly agree, and denied the other obstacles. Besides, the summary of an analysis of the average mean

demonstrated the positive interaction by the two poles of e-learning including staff members and female students in a high proportion of (49.14%, and 44.8%) for the responses of strongly agree respectively.
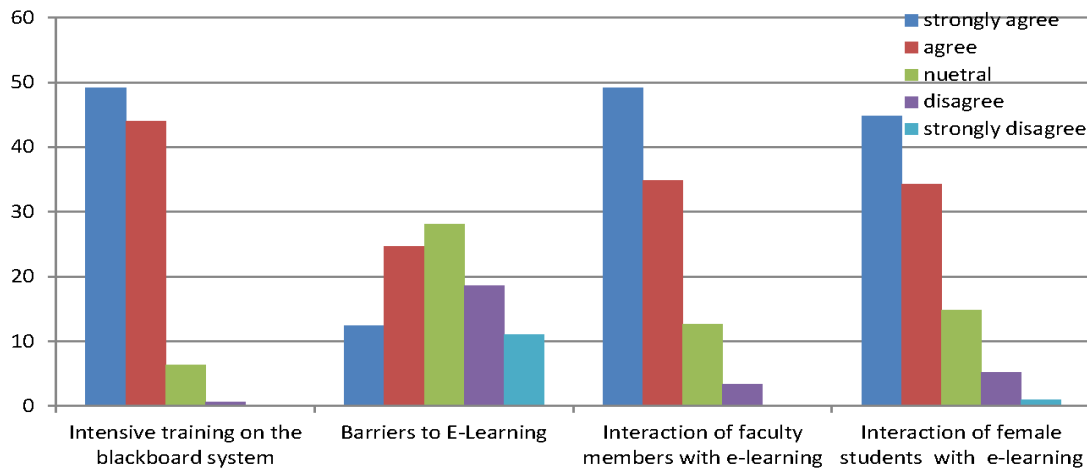

Figure 5
Questionaire scopes analysis

CONCLUSION

The study concluded that the success of the effectiveness of e-learning in light of the spread of the Corona pandemic due to the response of both faculty members , students and their interaction with e-learning. Thus, it was reflected on the success of e-learning in the University College of Addayer - Jazan University. Both The college and university provided intensive training courses in the field of e-learning, the use of the blackboard system and helping both faculty members and female students to use the blackboard system effectively and successfully. The study proved that there were some obstacles that hindered the progress of e-learning process, such as the disruption of the internet network, the methods of e-learning assessment and the lack of reliability that the student herself was doing duties and activities on the blackboard system. The study sample also denied the existence of some obstacles such as communication between members and students, preparation of pictorial lectures and the lack of training courses. The results of the study indicated that the percentage of interaction of both faculty members and female students with e-learning was more effective in light of the spread of Corona virus in the college. Moreover, It proved that both the faculty members and female students were satisfied with e-learning system and what the e-learning unit did in the college positively. It proved that the e-learning enhanced the professional capabilities of both staff members and female students in using modern technologies in a high proportion as well. Finally, the study had examined those problems and given a set of recommendations that have great deal of importance. They are essential items in the way to solve the problems of using e-learning system in the University College of Addayer – Jazan University properly.

RECOMMENDATIONS

• Disseminating the culture of e-learning among both faculty members and female students to achieve the greatest possible interaction with this type of education

• Training and encouraging both staff members and female students at the University College of Addayer to use all methods, means and tools of e-learning system, especially in light of the spread of the Corona pandemic.

• More conferences, seminars should be held and publishing scientific research in order to know and demonstrate the effectiveness of e-learning as a precaution to confront the Corona pandemic.

• Encouraging faculty members to participate in scientific and technological seminars outside the university framework in order to develop their performance in the educational process.

• The study recommended using assessment methods and tools governed by electronic monitoring to enhance the reliability of students' results.

• Using the flexible education that maintains the achievement of learning outcomes and the continuation of educational process during crises.

• Working to develop and improve the quality of the Internet, especially in remote and mountainous areas, in line with the Kingdom's vision 2030, which aims to achieve equal educational opportunities for all citizens.

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