

STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR E-LEARNING IMPLEMENTATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION SECTOR

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INTRODUCTION

With the passage of time digital technology multiple computing solutions continue to evolve and communities/ group's use these technologies expanded exponentially, which leads to quick adoption of the technology/ tolls of education support and enhancement programs. The educator's have started believing that introduction of technology in education sector need to be matched and adopted quickly to remain active in the competitive environment. On the other hand students have increasingly demanded better connectivity levels, interactivity and prefer all those colleges/ university having best innovative e-learning strategies. To become a leader in higher education colleges/ universities have to committed to the effective implementation of digital technology tools and required system's to meet today's and tomorrow's educational requirement. This paper on strategic plan for e-learning implementation is as a guide to help the colleges/ universities to fulfill the teaching requirement and students needs of e-learning modules.

Significance of the Research

The research work is providing a guide line to the colleges/ universities on an e-learning strategic planning and effective implementation of digital tools and system's to meet educational needs.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Following Research methodology is devised to reach to effective conclusion: -

- Carry out an in depth literature study in order to develop relative knowledge about strategic planning for e-learning.
- Formulating strategic planning for e-learning implementation on the bases of literature.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Distant education and learning has created a great Impact to changes in organizations with the help of technology. The benefit involved is that one needs not to attend classes regularly enabling him to work in multidimensional environment at the same time. Resultantly distant learning has created diverse organizational structures from within those of conventional educational institutions. (Bates 2005)

Upcoming growths in distant learning and use of highly refined technologies are opening new avenues in university level education. It is therefore a need for the universities to accommodate the impact of technology on learning. The technologies related to communication have the freedoms of time and space and provides new contexts to universities for organization of learning techniques. The purpose of this paper is to develop Strategic Planning for e-Learning Implementation in Higher Education Sector. Agenda is of immediate identification of the changes and exploration of its subsequent development. Fundamental re-thinking by the universities is required for the positive impact of distant learning and develops the requirements for its strategic implementation. Despite overdue focus on the development of technology very less concern has been shown on the impact on strategic planning of distant learning. The aim is to identify the gaps in the responses of the universities to the challenges in adoption distant learning. (O'Shea 2004)

In development and implementation of distant learning strategy in higher education sector, understanding of the critical success factors and their identification plays a vital role along with the understanding of information and communication technology. Astride availability of distant learning models new distant learning models are recurrently evolving as new research fields. These models are the endeavors to further enhance the development of these frameworks to cater for the distresses of the students and the encounters confronted by the technology. And in the same process of its implementation these models present expedient apparatuses for gauging the ongoing distant learning creativities. (Engelbrecht 2003)

Lecturers have become more aware of the fact that there is a need to develop their delivery process, a unique in the upcoming distant learning process in order to enhance delivery process of their knowledge and to give value to their students, this equally implies to all the universities offering such type of education. The paper describes the outline model of Strategic Planning for e-Learning Implementation in Higher Education Sector, to guide Learning development and mentoring within the Scope of education system and pronounce the method of teacher-student interaction in order to create a better opportunity to replace face-to-face lectures with that of online delivery, in order to produce top quality results for the students e.g. Microsoft has introduced audio narrations in their MS Office Power Point and have compressed the file size for better and uninterrupted streaming for the University by incorporating WebCT Vista to allow all students to enroll in three local campuses along with overseas campus. (Ellis 2006)

Looking at the rapid advancement in information and communication technologies (ICT), distant learning has become a great demand in the education field especially the higher education sector, but its implementation requires the ability to confront with the challenges as compared to existing campus-based universities. However, many practitioners, scholars and policy makers in higher education synonym sly use distant education and e-learning as one. But factually e-Learning in most of the higher education sector is not being delivered through the existing electronic media and not being used for distant education purposes. Distant education and e-Learning however intersect with each other in some regards, but are not alike.. (Guri-Rosenblit 2005)

Global market has intensified the need for e-Learning and has developed changes in the organizational structures to deliver the e-contents. Development of e-learning policies are significantly being incorporated in all educational institutes being rapidly adopted in the education sector specially the higher education sector. (Olivera 2005)

E – LEARNING VISION STATEMENT

Each e-learning institute will provides students with multiple learning opportunities and services anytime, anywhere and in multiple modalities, these services will include well defined educational pathways and student/ teacher’s systems that help all students achieve their individual academic goals.

Guiding Principles for e-learning planning

- Every student must have easy/sufficient access to education by using technology.
- Preparing students for always connected, technology enabled collaborative work place to participate in technology – facilitated projects and global discussion.
- Improving the quality of student learning through technology - supported and faculty led modalities.
- Increasing student’s interest and engagement through students - centered interaction and personalized e-learning technologies.
- Creating social network of learners and education by enhancing the relevance, richness efficiencies and innovation of the learning and teaching plan.

Basic Planning Parameters for E- learning Implementation.

In order to improve the learning and teaching experience, using of technologies and its implementation is important, for both outside and within the classroom. Some of the planning parameters are as under:

- Computers in the classroom for the students
- Electronic classroom
- Mobile device
- Computer labs
- Web-enhanced education
- Collaborative technologies to support courses activities and projects.
- Technology-supported interactions between students, teacher and students, student, teacher and industry, and students and curriculum.
- Virtual classroom and meetings
- Digital textbooks and other learning resources
- Simulation and virtual labs
- E-portfolios
- Complete online services including admission, advising, registration, textbooks, tutoring, help desk, etc. (integral part of making an effective eLearning organization)

- Collaboration between teachers within an organization and between organizations through digital tools for sharing curriculum, students projects and assessment strategies
- Use of electronic resources (library and external resources)

Important E-Learning Technologies

A few examples of eLearning technologies include:

- Use of internet, digital applications, PowerPoint presentation and other digital technologies in the teaching and learning experience
- Podcasting and other audio recordings
- Screen capture and recording
- Video recording
- Course management systems
- Live multimedia meetings
- Collaborative web-based workspaces
- Digital textbooks
- Blogs and wikis
- Electronic databases

E-LEARNING IMPLEMENTATION PARAMETERS

My E-learning strategic plan consists of eight Implementation Parameters that support my E-learning Vision and basic planning principle. The Implementation Parameters are as under: -

Implementation Parameters 1

Adoption of innovative technologies in order to facilitate student-centered collaborative learning environment of education at all level, both outer side and inside of the traditional classroom parameters.

Practical Implementation Parameters 1

- Establishment of comprehensive management system which support learning at a distance.
- Institution own portal server which can host class and project websites.
- Virtual meeting platform which can support student – teacher, student-student interaction and tutoring.
- For suitable bandwidth (BW), wireless connectivity throughout in the institution.
- Blog's, Wikis and Podcasting technologies for learning and discussion beyond the classroom boundaries.
- Accessibility to library, electronic documents and e Books.

- Organizing distance learning committee, for assessment recommended of new e-learning technologies.

Goals to be achieved from Implementation Parameters 1

- Availability of complete suit of e-learning tools and support services to teachers/ students
- Institution offer courses online which are rich in multimedia, with collaborative faculty and student interaction.
- Provide students with flexible digital learning experience.
- Will provide self-correcting learning pathways to the students.
- Filtration of technology through distance learning committee recommendation which will help the e-learning system.

Implementation Parameters 2

Formulating curriculum development program for e-learning, and strengthen digital technologies and web enhanced learning practices which aligned with the institution vision and goals

Practical Implementation Parameters 2

- Funds allocation for faculty development of new online courses and curriculum.
- Identifying and selection of comprehensive distance education offering courses.
- Comprehensive courses management system to support learning at a distance.
- Establishment of faculty resources center to support faculty in implementing their courses content in a web-based environment.
- (A comprehensive and thorough assessment of all the online courses for continuous improvement of the system.

Goals to be achieved from Implementation Parameters 2

- By using e-learning technology offering different courses any time anywhere.
- Expanding the numbers and diversity of online offering courses to the students.
- For the success of online courses offer to the student, development a support and diagnostic processes is important.
- Processes strengthening will continue to evaluate and improve quality and consistency of online courses.
- Available of funds to sustain the growth of online programs.
- Best practices will be promoted and shared for e-learning globally.
- Implementing a systematic review process for online courses for consistency and quality.
- Increase online courses to meet student demand which will reduce trips to campus for study.

Implementation Parameters 3

Providing user friendly environment and training of teacher/ student to fully take advantage of e-learning modules.

Implementation Parameters 4

Providing support and opportunities of professional development to faculty for exploring new e-learning technologies and methodologies.

Implementation Parameters 5

Providing comprehensive packages of technology-banded student services which support the successful completion of students lifelong learning goals.

Implementation Parameters 6

Maintenance and upgradation of the technological infrastructure which required to create a reliable e-learning environment.

Implementation Parameters 7

Belive on partnership, which include, industries, RSD, sister Institution and open globally to provide comprehensive e-learning tools for professional development.

Implementation Parameters 8

Feed back mechanism for continues improvement of e-learning practices

CONCLUSION

The e learning strategic plan is intended to be a road map for all the colleges/ universities of e learning implementation. The strategies and goals presented, direct supported to the over all institution vision, in providing successful, rich and innovative student-centered learning environment. Which will advances the life long educational development of its students while strengthening the economic, social and cultural life of its diverse community. The strategic planning also focus on bringing students together from various institution of the world, to carry out multiple projects and discussion behind their boundaries.

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