KALASALINGAM ACADEMY OF RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

Research Proposal for

Ph.D. in Visual Communication

A STUDY OF MOBILE LEARNING AMONG VISUAL COMMUNICATION STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

The development of mobile technologies has created a great revolution among the global audience. Smart Mobile phones transformed the way of communication and sharing information. In this paper, the study focusing the usage of mobile learning applications. Mobile learning allows students to access learning materials and information from anywhere at any time. Since the mobile application contains various multimedia elements like video, animation, images, text, colours, visuals and sound, the students can learn with common learning. Students also can replay the learning content any number of times until they acquire the knowledge. This paper is timely since there is a major growth in the use of mobile technology by students around the world, particularly in developing countries like India.

Introduction

A major benefit of using wireless mobile technology is to reach people who live in remote locations where there are no schools, teachers, or libraries. Mobile technology can be used to deliver instruction and information to these remote regions without having people leave their geographic areas. This will benefit communities in such places since students and workers will not have to leave their families and jobs to go to a different location to learn or to access information. At the same time, business owners, agriculture workers, and other working sectors can access information to increase productivity and improve the quality of their products. People living in remote communities will be able to access health information to improve their health hence, enhancing quality of life. Finally, because remote access using wireless mobile technology reduces the need for travel, its use can reduce humanity's carbon footprint on Earth to help maintain a cleaner environment. Educational technology has combined these approaches and has accelerated education's future trajectory greatly. It is an exciting time to be involved in the educational sector, regardless of your role.

Review of Literature

Current trends in mobile learning

Mobile learning currently exploits both handheld computers and mobile telephones and other devices that draw on the same set of functionalities. Mobile learning using handheld computers is relatively immature in terms of both its technologies and its pedagogies but is developing rapidly. Furthermore, defining mobile learning can emphasize those unique attributes that position it within informal learning, rather than formal. These attributes place much mobile learning at odds with formal learning (with its cohorts, courses, semesters, assessments, and campuses) and with its monitoring and evaluation regimes.

Mind-based learning

Young people have played computer and online games with enthusiasm and persistence since the 1960s and 1990s, respectively. Now computer and online games are more prolific and popular than ever before. Educational institutions, as a result of having mobile learning device initiatives and cloud computing, are harnessing the same determination, enthusiasm and persistence that are brought out of students when they play games. Game-based learning seems likely to become the most effective way to teach students fundamental concepts which would have previously been learnt via repetition and written exercises.

Virtual Learning Environment

The classroom is no longer restricted to existing inside a physical educational institution; it can be anywhere the student chooses. This is the idea encapsulated by VLEs. At the forefront of this idea are virtual and remote learning platforms. As mentioned above, VLEs are educational electronic learning systems based on online models that mimic conventional in-person education. Virtual and remote learning platforms are poised to provide any student within or outside of traditional educational infrastructure with an engaging and interactive learning environment.

Effective mobile learning environment

While learners may not share the same physical environment, they can use mobile devices to share aspects of their personal and cultural lives. To solve problems unique to their situations, learners can readily choose from a seemingly unlimited quantity of data. The

Internet has ushered in an era in which information has become easy to access and easy to publish. Now, learners must acquire the skills and tools to navigate through this growing body of information [4]. Mobile learning enables learners to interact using additional tools such as text messaging, mobile Internet access, and voice communications – all through wireless networks.

Mobile Learning for Visual Communication Students

Today, mobile technologies – originally marketed mainly as communication and entertainment devices – have come to play a significant role in economies and society at large. Mobile devices have impacted nearly every field, from banking to politics, and are currently being used to increase productivity in numerous sectors. As these devices become increasingly prominent worldwide, there is a great deal of excitement building around mobile learning. Many of the experts interviewed for this report feel that mobile learning is now on the threshold of a more systematic integration with education both in and outside of schools. Decisions made today will fundamentally influence the character of mobile learning in years to come. To help set the stage for these decisions, the following sections outline some of the most prevalent trends in mobile learning to date. These include innovations in formal and informal education, seamless learning and educational technology.

The newly developed mobile application called 'Design Principles' was shared with the Visual communication students. Before sharing the application the content of the application was lectured by a faculty for one hour duration. After the lecture the mobile application 'Design principles' was shared with students' mobile device. The students are advised use the mobile application for minimum one time usage. The very next day data was collected from the students in the form of survey. The result shows the learning through mobile applications giving them better understanding of subject since they have opportunity to learn content as per their own order and their own time. Since the mobile application have opportunity to share the content in the form of text, visuals, audio and video.

The future of mobile Application based learning

With over 5.9 billion mobile phone subscriptions worldwide, mobile devices have already transformed the way we live. But even though people around the globe rely heavily on mobile technology, educators and policy-makers have yet to tap its full potential to improve learning. The next decade and beyond could be transformational in incorporating

mobile technologies in both formal and informal education to better meet the needs of learners and teachers everywhere. The following sections describe some of the technological advances most likely to impact mobile learning in the future, and highlight key focus areas in the development of mobile learning over the next fifteen years.

The future of higher education

Trends Currently Affecting Teaching, Learning, and Creative Inquiry in Higher Education

- People expect to be able to work, learn, and study whenever and wherever they want to.
- The technologies we use are increasingly cloud-based, and our notions of IT support are decentralized.
- The world of work is increasingly collaborative, driving changes in the way student projects are structured.
- The abundance of resources and relationships made easily accessible via the Internet is increasingly challenging us to revisit our roles as educators.
- Education paradigms are shifting to include online learning, hybrid learning and collaborative models.
- There is a new emphasis in the classroom on more challenge-based and active learning.

Conclusion

The use of mobile technology in education is a recent initiative due to the availability and rapid advancement of mobile devices such as smart phones, PDAs, and handheld computers. Recently, there have been many research studies and applications of mobile learning in both formal and informal learning. There's no doubt about the fact that the realm of higher education worldwide is going to undergo a vast transformation. With newer and better technology becoming increasingly affordable, classrooms the world over are evolving. Through better understanding and utilization of these incredibly powerful new revelations in educational technology, we can prepare future generations for whatever may lie ahead.

Reference

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