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THE ACTUALITY OF DISTANCE LEARNING AND USING WEBINAR TECHNOLOGIES IN EDUCATION

KEYWORDS: Gadjets, network, virtual communication, education, teaching, online classes, interactive, webinar, zoom, distance learning, intensive, e-learning, online resourses, broadcasts and etc.

ANNOTATION: In this article, the theory of distance education, its concept and history of appearing distance learning and using webinar technologies are discussed. It is known that distance education is a field of education that focuses on teaching methods and technology with the aim of delivering teaching, often on an individual basis, to students who are not physically present in a traditional educational setting such as a classroom. The term distance education represents approaches that focus on opening access to education and training, freeing learners from the constraints of time and place.

Distance education is a branch of education that focuses on teaching methods and technology with the goal of providing instruction to students who are not physically present in a traditional educational building, such as a classroom. According to a definition it is "A procedure to develop and provide access to learning when the source of information and the learners are separated by time and location, or both".

This type of learning has its origins to the establishment of postal systems in the nineteenth century, and it has been practiced in the United Kingdom at least since Isaac Pitman taught shorthand via letter in the 1840s.

The term distance education represents approaches that focus on opening access to education and training, freeing learners from the constraints of time and place. It offers flexible learning opportunities to individual and group learners. This is the most rapidly growing segment of education.

The potential impact of distance learning on all education has been emphasised by the development of Internet-based technologies, particularly the World Wide Web. It can be described as learning involving implementation of information, computing and communications technology applications in more than one location . The basic definition of distance learning considers that the teacher and the students are separate in the spatial dimension and that this distance is filled by using technological resources. Distance learning is a contributing force to social and economic development. It is fast becoming an essential part of the mainstream of educational systems in both developed and developing countries.

Modern distance learning initially relied on the development of postal services in the 19th century. The first Open university, establishing in 1969 in the UK, was initially relied on radio and television broadcasts for giving new information.

Since the first type of distance learning and an open university much has been improved. Today, by virtue of new technologies fast development and constant cost fall in processing, storing and transmitting data, many private and public, non-profit and for-profit institutions worldwide offer distance education from the most basic instruction trough the highest level of degree.

There are ten reasons, according to Draves, to use distant education instead of traditional learning methods. The following reasons are given:

1. The student has the option of learning at his or her own "best" time.
2. The student determines the learning pace.
3. Learning happens more quickly. Personal interactions with the teacher and other pupils are more likely to occur.

5. There are more topics and themes to access while working online.

6. Classroom participants may gain a stronger sense of variety by connecting with students from all around the world.

7. Online resources provide pupils with access to leading authorities and specialists.

8. It has been discovered that distance learning is less expensive and more accessible.

9. There are a plethora of information resources available online.

10. Virtual communities emerge from online classes.

Many authors have highlighted the necessity for constructivism/student-centered and collaborative methods to be used in distant education courses. There are two sides of online educational process: a teacher, who shares his knowledge online and facilitates the process and students, who accept all given information and enrich their knowledge and skills. There are some characteristics of both students and teachers side.

Distance Education Student Characteristics include voluntarily seeking further education, highly motivated and self-disciplined skill, older and more mature way of organization of study, willing to initiate calls to instructors for assistance, possessing a more serious attitude toward coursework, an holder of a college degree" and active participation in learning. Distance education meets the needs of students who are unable to attend classes due to other commitments (job, family), is more economical (does away with travel or residence hall expenses), and holding a philosophy that learning is active, not passive.

Nowadays electronic distance learning systems should be as an effective addition to traditional teaching methods considered. Separately, it is worth noting the positive impact of distance learning in cases where it complements traditional learning. Already in many developed countries, distance learning is a real competitor to traditional teaching learning. Before analyzing the benefits and drawbacks of webinars, we should define the following concepts as distance learning, an E-learning and webinar technologies.

So distance learning is a modern method of learning being in a far distance, using computer systems. E-learning is a computer-assisted distance learning system. In essence, this is a more perfect version of the self-instruction book familiar to everyone. Electronic distance learning provides an opportunity to independently determine and vary the speed and sequence of learning, makes it possible to access training materials at a convenient time for the employee.

A webinar is an online seminar that takes place in real time. As a result, the webinar serves to transmit knowledge and virtually bring individuals from all over the world together.

To participate in a webinar about a topic that interests you, you must first register. You will receive a web address to a page where you can access the webinar during it after registering. You do not require any extra software as a participant. All interactions are done through a web browser, and you must attach headphones or a speaker system to your computer to hear sound. A mobile phone (smartphone) and broadband Internet connectivity are sufficient when using a mobile application to observe a webinar.

The webinar offers the following options to its participants:

- watch slide presentations;
- see the presenter in real time;
– real-time audio communication through computer (mobile phone);
– recording and subsequent playback of an online seminar;
– text chat for information exchange and communication between a presenter and participants;
– an electronic board on which the presenter and listeners can leave their comments;
– conducting voting and polls, in which the host presents several options to choose from and each participant marks the option that he considers the most appropriate;
– conducting text chat for the exchange of information between the presenter and participants and for communication between participants;

– conducting voting and polls, in which the host presents several options to choose from and each participant marks the option that he considers the most appropriate.

On the monitor, the survey results are displayed.

Let's take a look at the advantages and downsides of using modern platforms for organizing webinars from a pedagogical standpoint.

Webinar.ru and Mirapolis Virtual Room are the most popular for educational purposes in educational institutions today. All modern webinar platforms, on the whole, provide the same fundamental tools: a desktop demo, some running apps, presentations, movies, conducting surveys, creating group and private chats, seeing the speaker, videoconferencing, monitoring the presence of participants, and a drawing board. Invitations, participation via mobile devices, comprehensive webinar reporting, and the option to embed registration forms are all advanced capabilities.

What are the benefits of using a webinar as part of your educational process ?

To begin with, the speaker and his listeners can hold an online meeting while they are at different modern locations. In addition, the teacher can host a webinar from his or her own house. The absence of travel expenditures to the venue (not to mention traffic congestion, which may cause offline seminar participants to be delayed, late, and lose a layer of key information) and time savings are the second and third significant advantages. The ability to review and access materials is the third benefit.

Also, if we consider a webinar as one of the ways to engage with distance learning students, it's worth noting that the impersonality of students is eliminated, and there's a real-time element of contact.

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Modern distance learning initially relied on the development of postal services in the 19th century. The first Open university, establishing in 1969 in the UK, was initially relied on radio and television broadcasts for giving new information.

Since the first type of distance learning and an open university much has been improved. Today, by virtue of new technologies fast development and constant cost fall in processing, storing and transmitting data, many private and public, non-profit and for-profit institutions worldwide offer distance education from the most basic instruction trough the highest level of degree.

A great many authors have supported the need of distance education courses to be structured using constructivism/student-centered and collaborative models.

There are two sides of online educational process: a teacher, who shares his knowledge online and facilitates the process and students, who accept all given information and enrich their knowledge and skills.

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