INNOVATIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT IN 21ST CENTURY

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Annotation

21st century learning isn't about technology; its about how we use it to enhance learning experiences.

The word "innovation" has been engaging in education system for thousand years. It doesn't only include meaning of using new technologies in IT after the computer era. Every best scholar of their era contributed much to the developmental innovative systems in learning. Any field either being "the apple and Newton's new part" in the physics or "number order" in mathematics by Algorithm. Every second there is being innovation of each tiny rule we are learning and going to learn.

Introduction

When we mention exactly what is being improved through innovation in 21st century, we must take the use of technological devices and computer intellects for education into consideration, too. It is now being indispensable part of each sphere playing main role in every educational system. "Today's students are no longer the people our educational system was designed to teach" mentioned by David Warlick. Even teachers are doing their best to renew their knowledge in both their own field and IT.

Here are given some of the statistics for these.

Online Courses: As of 2021, around 75% of higher education institutions offered online courses, with enrollment in online programs increasing by over 200% since 2019.

Learning Management Systems (LMS): Approximately 70% of colleges and universities utilize an LMS, with popular systems including Canvas, Blackboard, and Moodle.

Assistive Technology Usage: Approximately 30% of students with disabilities use assistive technology devices, such as speech-to-text software or specialized communication devices.

Laptop Usage: A 2020 study indicated that over 95% of college students owned a laptop, with approximately 80% using it daily for academic purposes.

As regard to Online Degree Programs: As of 2021, more than 70% of colleges and universities offered fully online degree programs, a significant increase from

previous years. This leads to <u>Diverse Student Body</u>: Approximately 63% of online students are non-traditional learners, including adults returning to education, working professionals, and those with families. <u>Device Usage:</u> Approximately 90% of online students use laptops for their coursework, while around 30% use tablets or smartphones. When it comes to <u>Access to Resources</u>: About 80% of online learners report having access to digital resources such as e-books, online libraries, and multimedia content<u>. Cost Savings:</u> Online programs often cost less than traditional on-campus programs, with average tuition fees for online degrees being about 20-30% lower than their in-person counterparts. <u>Student Satisfaction</u>: Surveys indicate that approximately 85% of online learners are satisfied with their educational experience, citing flexibility and convenience as key benefits. <u>Engagement Levels:</u> Online courses that incorporate interactive elements (like discussion forums, video conferencing, and group projects) see higher engagement rates, with studies showing that interactive courses can increase student participation by up to 40%.

Hybrid Models are also important depending on situation and wish of students at some points: Many institutions are shifting toward hybrid models that combine online and in-person learning, with an estimated 60% of colleges planning to offer more hybrid courses post-pandemic.

A hybrid model in higher education refers to an instructional approach that combines traditional face-to-face classroom experiences with online learning components. This model aims to leverage the strengths of both methods to enhance the educational experience for students. Here are some key aspects and advantages of the hybrid model in higher education:

1. Blended Learning: The hybrid model typically involves a blend of in-person lectures, discussions, and activities with online coursework, such as video lectures, discussion forums, and interactive assignments.

2. Flexibility: Students can often choose when and where to engage with online materials, allowing for a more personalized learning experience.

3. Technology Integration: The use of various digital tools and platforms enhances the learning process, enabling access to a wider range of resources and materials.

4. Active Learning: The hybrid model encourages active participation through collaborative online projects, discussions, and peer feedback, fostering deeper engagement with the material.

Advantages of the Hybrid Model

1. Increased Accessibility: Students can access course materials and participate in discussions from anywhere, making education more accessible to those with geographic or time constraints.

2. Enhanced Engagement: The combination of online and in-person elements can lead to greater student engagement, as different formats can cater to various learning styles.

3. Personalized Learning: Students can progress at their own pace with online components, allowing for a more tailored educational experience that meets individual needs.

4. Resource Efficiency: Hybrid models can optimize the use of physical classroom space and resources, potentially reducing costs for institutions while maintaining or improving educational quality.

5. Skill Development: Students develop important skills such as self-directed learning, digital literacy, and time management, which are increasingly valuable in today's workforce.

6. Improved Learning Outcomes: Research has shown that blended learning environments can lead to better academic performance compared to traditional methods alone, as they often promote deeper understanding and retention of material.

7. Collaboration Opportunities: Online platforms facilitate collaboration among students from different locations, enhancing diversity and broadening perspectives within discussions and projects.

8. Adaptability: The hybrid model allows institutions to quickly adapt to changing circumstances (e.g., during emergencies like the COVID-19 pandemic) by shifting more content online without completely disrupting the learning process.

The hybrid model represents a significant shift in higher education, providing a flexible and dynamic approach that meets the needs of modern learners. By combining the best aspects of in-person and online education, institutions can enhance student engagement, improve learning outcomes, and prepare graduates for a rapidly evolving workforce.

In conclusion, the 21st-century innovative learning environment goes beyond the mere integration of technology; it harnesses it to enrich educational experiences. Throughout history, innovation has been a cornerstone of educational advancement, with every era's scholars contributing to the evolution of learning systems. Today, technological advancements play an indispensable role in shaping education, as seen through the widespread adoption of online courses, Learning Management Systems (LMS), assistive technologies, and hybrid learning models.

Statistics highlight the significant impact of these innovations, such as the increasing enrollment in online programs, the extensive use of laptops and digital resources by students, and the cost savings associated with online education. The shift towards hybrid models in higher education exemplifies the blend of traditional and modern teaching methods, providing flexibility, enhanced engagement, and improved learning outcomes.

The hybrid model, in particular, stands out for its ability to combine the strengths of face-to-face and online learning, making education more accessible and personalized. It fosters active participation, collaboration, and the development of essential skills, preparing students for the ever-evolving workforce.

As educational institutions continue to adapt to changing circumstances and embrace technological advancements, the future of learning promises to be more dynamic, inclusive, and effective, ensuring that students are well-equipped to thrive in the 21st century and beyond.

Reference:

1. Warlick, D. (n.d.). The world is flat: A brief history of the digital revolution. Retrieved from insert URL if applicable