PERCEPTIONS ON ONLINE LEARNING IN THE CONTEXT OF DISTANCE EDUCATION

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In the 21st century, with the common use of educational technology and connectivism, distance learning has come to be the main topic of the present education systems. In this context, online learning or E-learning has been under discussion in the past several years, due to the rapid development of technology and internet use. Therefore, these developments have enforced the instruction and curriculum to be revised and updated. Online learning or E-learning can be defined as instruction delivered electronically mainly through the Internet or other multimedia forms such as CD-ROM, DVD, etc. It is a fact that not only the students but also all individuals have facilities to have access to the Internet whenever they like to do or need to do. Thus, e-learning or online learning is often identified as web-based learning for the fact that online learning can be applied in a wide range of ways. It can be used with independent study units, asynchronous interactive sessions where participants interact at different times or synchronous interactive setting where learners meet in real time.

Although online learning and blended learning models that integrate online components into traditional teaching and learning models continues to flourish rapidly, it remains at a stage of development. It is clear that both students and researchers need more feedback or insight into how students perceive and react to such models. Thus, this study aims to find out how into how students perceive online teaching and learning models in the context of distance M.A. and PhD students perceive online teaching and learning models in the context of distance education.

world conference on educational and instructinoal studies-wceis-2012

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FOREWORD

We would like to give a warm welcome to our highly esteemed and international audience from around 15 countries worldwide from Brazil, Canada, China, Iran, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovakia, TRNC, Turkey, Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe. I would also like to welcome and thank to the members of WCEIS for their collaboration and support in holding this academic event.

WCEIS is now bringing academicians and practitioners together in the field of Education by presenting 140 papers and experiences, ideas will be shared.

The main goal of this conference is to present and discuss new trends in education and to promote collaboration, discussion and sharing of knowledge, experience and expertise WCEIS-2012 conference is supported by many universities and organizations and it has already formed a large, multi-national and friendly community of colleagues who would love to share ideas.

We would like to thank to our honorable presenters, for accepting our invitation and addressing the audience on the World Conference on Educational and Instructional Studies. It this respect, we highly appreciate your participation to enrich the diversity of perspectives.

We also would like to sincerely thank the people who reviewed papers for the conference conference staff and to the sponsors of the conference for their support and organization a this successful conference would not have been possible without their ongoing contributions.

We hope you come back and join us again with new ideas and approaches.

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