

E-Learning: A successful Methodology and Enhancement in English Language Teaching and Learning During Covid-19 pandemic: The Case of King Khalid University in Saudi Arabia

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ABSTRACT

Most of the institutions changed to fulltime eLearning method during Covid-19 pandemic but eLearning methodology helped the educational process with interruption. This paper shows the efficiency of eLearning in Science and Arts College for Girls, King Khalid University. Another view of this study is focused on how eLearning methodologies and its tools functioned during Covid-19 pandemic in teaching and learning English language. To find out the result, quantitative survey was conducted among the English departments' faculties and students from King Khalid University, Al-Majadra branch.

Keywords: Covid-19 pandemic, efficiency, eLearning, eLearning tools and quantitative survey.

Published Online: March 10, 2022

ISSN: 2796-0064

DOI: 10.24018/ejlang.2022.1.2.10

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I. INTRODUCTION

Mode of education has changed all over the world due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All the schools and universities were closed more than a year during the pandemic period. It is the dramatic change globally which made the students completely out of the classroom and educational environment. All the institutions and universities are forced to conduct the studies through the online mode to keep the progress. Due to this, a drastic rise in adopting E-learning methodology is happening everywhere. But how about effectiveness of E-learning and learner's feedback, so this study aims to find out facts of E learning's effectiveness and its feedback. To find a result quantitative data were collected among undergraduate English department students of various levels and teachers from King Khalid University, Majadra campus. The result from this study helps to find out the effectiveness and success of E-learning in King Khalid university.

In the beginning of 2020, the Ministry of Education of Saudi Arabia instructed all the schools and universities to close and to conduct the study remotely, parallelly Ministry of Education of Saudi Arabia made an eLearning portal by integrating educational resources to support pupil's learning environment. All over the world started to follow the remote learning by the middle of the 2020 to protect the educational environment. All the universities in Saudi Arabia cancel the traditional classes and resumed it in the online in favor of educational process.

Resuming all the classes online was not difficult to king Khalid university because even before COVID-19 there was already huge growth and adoption of technology was followed in teaching and learning. similarly, it was the same condition in all the universities and schools in Saudi Arabia. So, this favored the students do not have the break in their academic process and growth. As the purpose of this study, it is to find out impact and results of eLearning in English language learning and teaching at king called university.

II. TOOLS AND OBJECTIVE

A. eLearning,

eLearning, is the method of teaching and learning with the help of Internet another application which are used for the delivery of the teaching and learning process. Even it is the distance communication, but students and teachers are connected easily and can interact each other with the help of the tools of E-learning. eLearning functioning similarly like the face -to- face due to its various tools and distinctive features. eLearning can be into three types such as blended learning supportive learning and full-time learning.

Blended learning where the course being taught in face-to-face situation and part of the sessions and activities will be followed in e-learning tools and application. Supportive learning is where eLearning

system are used to enhance the course as the supportive medium. full time eLearning means where all the face-to-face classroom activities and sessions will be followed with eLearning environment by using eLearning system's tools. Any one of the above-mentioned modes of eLearning is being followed in King Khalid university and even every university is in Saudi Arabia. Also choosing anyone of the e-learning methodology it's not obligatory before the pandemic it was completely choice of the institutions on its course design but during the COVID-19 pandemic there was no options instead following the full time eLearning method.

B. Tools of eLearning

King Khalid University uses Blackboard as major tool for eLearning. This application is a web-based system which designed to allow faculty and students to participate the learning progress. Blackboard has many tools which helps the participant to be benefitted in eLearning. Some of the other applications also used as tool for fulltime eLearning such as Zoom, YouTube, Gmail, and its tools to support the learning process. Also, e-learning deanship of King Khalid University provided technical support related to systems and their uses to the participants.

C. Objective of the Study

This descriptive research study analyses the collected data from the participants. The result focus on the three main factors.

Identifying the effectiveness of eLearning and resources

eLearning as the best option for university level.

Effectiveness of learning English language by eLearning methodologies.

III. LITERATURE REVIEW

The large volume of studies has been conducted on e-learning success. Most of the study shows the report as positively over the effectiveness eLearning.

The wide set of applications and process which use available electronic media and tools to deliver vocational educational and training (Abbas, PP11-18). Another study explains that the importance of online learning and investigated the analysis of weakness, strengths, challenges, and opportunities of online education in the time of pandemic. (Shivangi,2020). eLearning system is having various tools to support the learning process by online and its also flexible as student can access twenty-four seven.

A study by Ali (2017) focused on Blackboard tools says that learners were motivated to work harder in learning English using Blackboard platform.

So, eLearning is not only helps to learn remotely it's an advancement in education. Also, it is developing learner's interest towards learning. This defines eLearning aids to enhance the process of teaching and learning.

IV. METHODOLOGY

A. Methodology

The focus of this study is to find out the effectiveness of eLearning methodologies during the covid-19 pandemic in king Khalid university. In this research quantitative data were used to find out the result and this study specifically focused on first and second semester of 2020 to 2021.

B. Participants

The study was conducted with English department faculties and undergraduate students of all levels from Science and Arts College of Majadra for girls, King Khalid University. The survey for this study conducted through Google survey, the samples were about 80 students and 20 faculty members of English department. The following figure shows the percentage of participants.

C. Research Instrument

Online based survey questionnaire was designed to focus on eLearning effectiveness. Google survey tool used to collect the data from the participants, and they were asked to answer 11 types of questions which includes yes or no, multiple choice and open-ended questions.

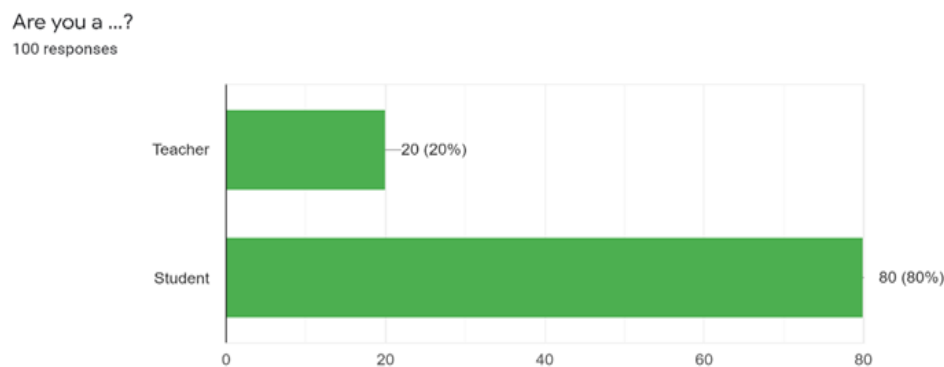


Fig 1. Total participants of the survey 1.

V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This descriptive research study analyses the collected data from the participants. The following section refers to the survey questions separately with an explanation of the results obtained.

Q1. Was it difficult for you to convince yourself to the fulltime e-learning mode?

Yes 46
No 54

For this question out of 100 participants 46% showed yes and 52% as no. Most participants found comfortable for the fulltime eLearning mode.

Q2. Do you feel comfortable in online teaching /learning? (Both mentally and physically)

Yes 77
No 23

77% of the participants felt comfortable to follow the learning in online and 23% remains no for this question, as this result shows that learner have full control over the learning practices.

Q3. Do you think e-learning helps you to communicate with others easily?

Yes 82
No 18

Among 100 participants 82% showed yes to this question and 18% as no. This is obviously because of the eLearning tools that helped them to achieve this result.

Q4. Do you think E-learning is the best option for education in university level?

Yes 63
No 34
Maybe 3

The figure shows the different percentages from the participants but almost 63% shows yes and 34% as no and 3% as maybe. This shows the interest for the fulltime eLearning from the participants.

Q5. Is English is easy to teach/learn through the e-learning tools?

Yes 70
No 23
Maybe 7

Almost 70% of the participants as yes, 23% as no and 7% showed the efficiency of the eLearning tools that applied for the fulltime eLearning.

Q6. Do you think e-learning gives you more resources and easy access to the study materials ?

Yes 78
No 18
Maybe 4

This figure shows again most of the participants given yes ,18% as no and 4% as maybe. This gives positive results for the question because King Khalid University offers E-library facility to everyone.

Q7. Can you able to understand virtually everything heard or read?

Yes 81
No 19

It is clear 81% participants showed yes, 19% as no. This result is achieved by the help of eLearning tools where the student can access the resources in multiple way.

Q8. Do you get the same benefits as like traditional way (face to face) of teaching/learning?

Agree 52
Disagree 20
Neutral 28

This question shows the different opinions but most of them agreed positively, 20% are disagreed and 28% as neutral to this question. This may be due to less in person interaction but the result for this question is positive.

Q9. Does e-learning give opportunities to develop your knowledge and skills?

Yes 97
No 5

95% of participants showed yes and 5% no. This outcome clearly shows the availability of the resources that are available online as there many opportunities to develop skills and knowledge by online.

Q10. How do you feel about online exams?

Satisfied 56
Not satisfied 14
Neutral 30

This question result shows different opinions. 50% as satisfied ,14% as not satisfied and 30% as neutral. The reason for different opinion can be difficulty in writing the exams online with the different tools.

Q11. Do you think e-learning is our future education?

Yes 67
No 39
Maybe 4

For this question 67% of participants shown yes, 39% as no and 4% as maybe. These answers clearly show the interest for the fulltime eLearning or to the technology-based classrooms.

VI. CONCLUSION

The study identified that eLearning in English language learning as successful methodology. It is also shows that eLearning as an enhanced method in teaching and learning, this result become possible as King Khalid University followed the blended learning methodology even before the covid-19 pandemic. So, this was one of the reasons for this success in fulltime eLearning. Another significant factor found in this study that eLearning system and its tools are effective to follow the educational process. Also, this study results conveys that eLearning will be more effective and adoptable in the future field of education.

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