Evaluation Methodology-Pedagogical Aspects of Online and Distance Education

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“Innovative Application of Pedagogy for Online and Distance Education holds out much promise for improving the Quality, Flexibility, Effectiveness, Access and Equity in Higher Education”
Open & Distance Education

- Open and Distance Education is the Copernican revolution in Education shifting the centre of gravity from teacher and institution based learning to student centered learning, the locus and control of learning activity move away from formal institution to various other learning environments including the home and work place.
Open & Distance Education

- It is a diverse Model characterized by life long learning

- It encourages collaboration and partnering

- It utilizes appropriate technology for different learning delivery systems

- It is designed to meet the varied needs of the students
Online & Distance Education

Teaching-Learning and Evaluation

- It is the crux of education of all types and levels
- All other factors are enablers for the pedagogical aspects to be effective to achieve the desired learning outcome.
Role of Evaluation

• Evaluation guides the design and implementation of online education

• Evaluation Activities can determine the educational needs

• It can help to improve the curriculum content & Programs

• Assess to what extent a program or course has achieved the desired outcome
Evaluation Methodology

- Determine whether certain Quality benchmarks have been attained
- Evaluation and Instructional Design activities can form a cyclical feedback loop where the results of one inform the activities of the other.
- An effective evaluation methodology can improve the online education design and implementation to meet the needs of the ever changing learning community
Evaluation Planning

On a macroscopic level, evaluation plans for online education should consider:

- The alignment of learning science principles
- Practices of Instructional design
- Application of online system
- Learning Experiences and sequencing to ensure continuity
Evaluation of Online Education

---- Should address 3 broad elements

- Abilities of learner to become involved with course information and content
- Manage Course contents & information
- Process course information and contents
Evaluation Activities

- Evaluation activities can be structured around:
  - Use of technology
  - Classroom atmosphere
  - Quantity and quality of interaction among students and the instructor
  - Course content, assignments, tests, support services, student achievements and student attitude
Criteria for Evaluation of online Education

1. **Technical** (Ease of use, speed of access, graphic realism, audio-video-output & flexibility)

2. **Instructional** (interactivity, integrative capacity, learner control, learner/instructor attitudes & learner achievement)

3. **Technical maintenance** (space/time feasibility, support system, staff development & Community partnership)

4. **Ethical** (Equity & Accessibility)
Evaluation

• A usability study would evaluate online learning for functionality, how it supports the activities that the users are required to perform.
Evaluation Tools

- Electronic observations - document the frequency, types and content of online communication.
- Monitoring communication to understand the extent to which topics are discussed.
- Tools for evaluating the social goals of interaction
- Instructional goals of interaction
Evaluation Tools

- Types and Uses of Technologies
- Impact of interactivity and changes in learner behavior
- Telephone interview and focus group discussion
- IAS online- web based assessment of post secondary course through the internet
- A custom made online data base for evaluating instructional program
- The users select standard evaluation items/create new items unique to the course
Conclusion

- Pedagogically, the role of the instructor is to intervene to motivate discussion and keep it on track.

- Successful outcomes of high levels of student engagement do not just happen by accident. Knowledge construction only occurs as a result of careful planning, clear well defined, well crafted questions, discussion topics and appropriate learning experiences.
THANK YOU