

E-Teaching, Learning and Ethical Values in Education

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ABSTRACT

With the encompassing speed of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), the world is developing with time; the gap between the have and have not is widening. The greed for materialistic and worldly things is increasing. The trend can be partially contributed to the modern education system, where total emphasis is on domain and technical knowledge. Teaching of moral values is considered as an integral part of the education. The contents of our formal education syllabi are gradually throwing out material on character development. With the busy schedule of individuals, the role of character development by the family and society is diminishing. The only hope is left with the teacher. In the e-Learning platform that hope is also disappearing because of physical absence of teacher. The work will analyze the learning models and role of ethical development. It is also proposing a model using ICTs which can help in the character development of the students in the e-Learning environments. The use of information and communication technology has grown at an unprecedented rate and provides a revolutionary way of learning because specific information is easy to find on the Internet. One of the technology approaches in learning is e-learning or electronic learning. Whereas e-learning has become very popular in the recent years as, e-learning is far from being widely used as most of the universities which offer only in-class courses and use information technologies only to support those. One of the disadvantages of e-learning is that it provides more possibilities for the academic fraud.

KEYWORD: *e-teaching, e-learning, academic, fraud, ethical, society, communication, technology*

INTRODUCTION

With the encompassing speed of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), the world is developing with time; the gap between the have and have not is widening. The greed for materialistic and worldly things is increasing. The trend can be partially contributed to the modern education system, where total emphasis is on domain and technical knowledge. Teaching of moral values is considered as an integral part of the education in Islam. The contents of our formal education syllabi are gradually throwing out material on character development. With the busy schedule of individuals, the role of character development by the family and society is diminishing. The only hope is left with the teacher. In the e-Learning platform that hope is also disappearing

because of physical absence of teacher. The work will analyze the learning models and role of ethical development. It is also proposing a model using ICTs which can help in the character development of the students in the e-Learning environments. Education has been called that what remains when everything else has been forgotten (attributed to Edouard Herriot, quoted after [6]). It clearly is not just an intellectual exercise but it is the acquisition of the habitus, our internalised way of interacting that allows the individual to act and react in a non-contradictory way [7]. But there is more to education than just the external appearance. Human beings can be defined by their intrinsic thirst for knowledge by their desire to understand and reason [8].

How to cite this paper: Dr. Manju Gupta "E-Teaching, Learning and Ethical Values in Education" Published in International Journal of Trend in Scientific Research and Development (ijtsrd), ISSN: 2456-6470, Volume-6 | Issue-3, April 2022, pp.1267-1271, URL: www.ijtsrd.com/papers/ijtsrd49717.pdf



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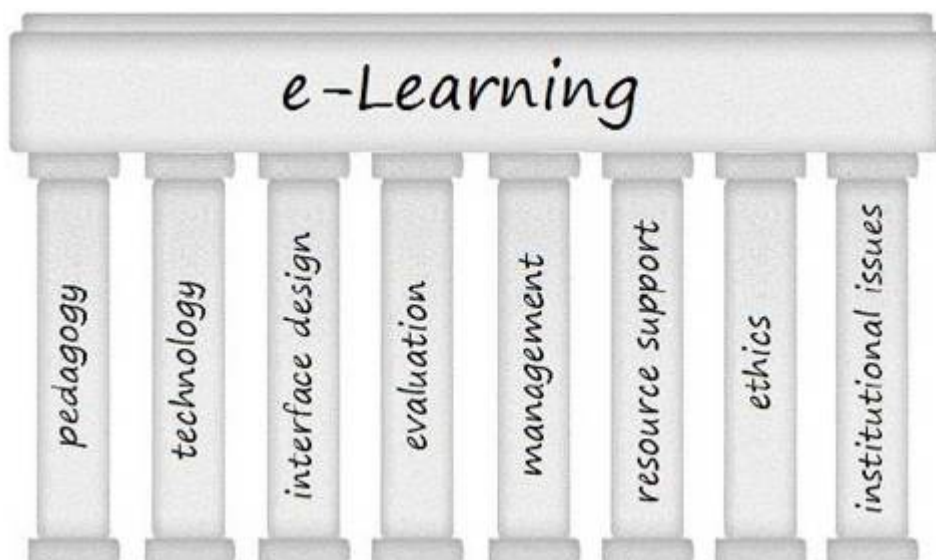




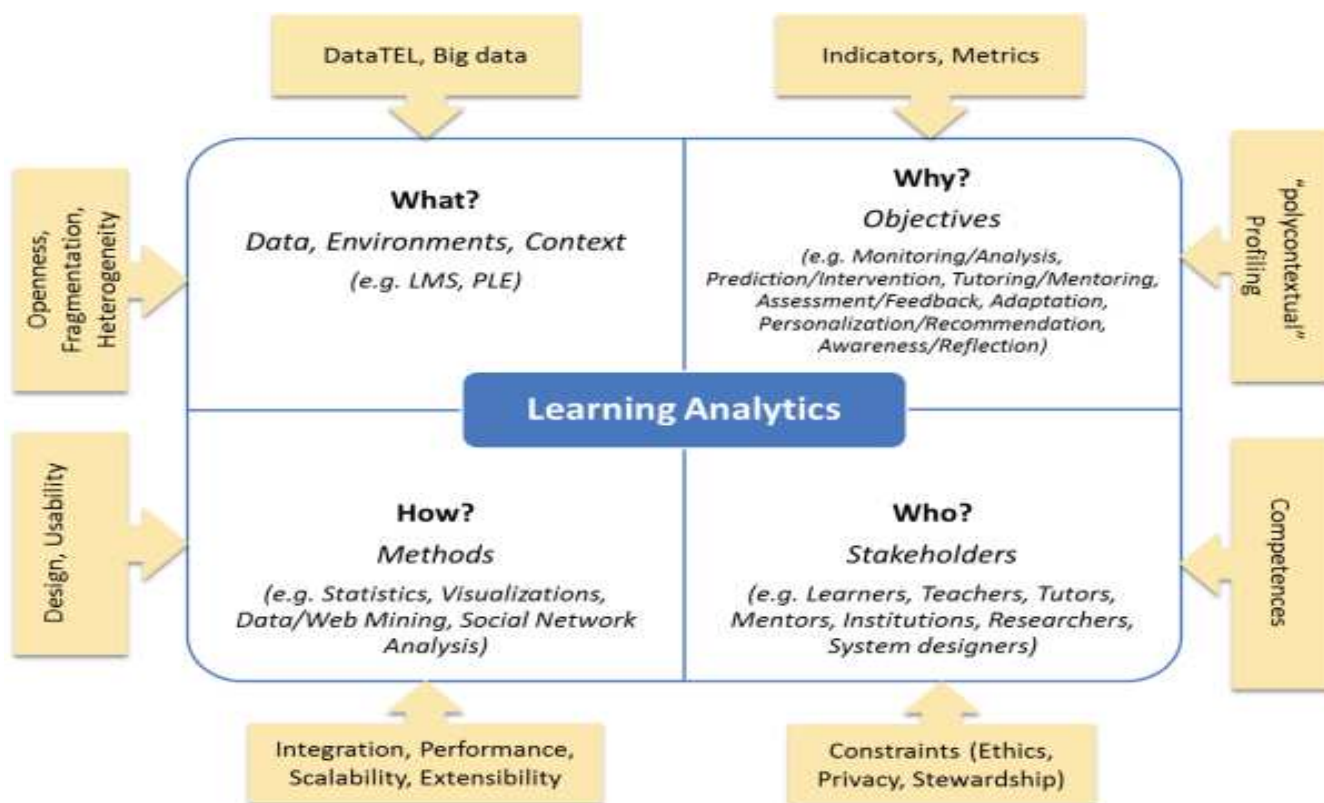
Human happiness, as the ultimate goal of life as described by Socrates consists of durable goods, top among them are the knowledge of truth and the ability to think [9]. But education does not only further individual goals it also has social utility. As Weber [10] points out, humans have to exercise asceticism, that means they have to overcome their affections in order to participate in the regulated life of modern societies. This task of education is often called character formation, the indoctrination of stable routines and attitudes [11]. Admittedly, universities can only function under the general assumption that most of this character formation has already been done (presumably no "normal savage" could ever sit through an hour of lecture) but they play a role in perfecting it. It is clear that these general roles of education are of high ethical relevance. If morality consists of the factual norms that we follow in order to facilitate social life then education's first goal is to give students the "moral drill" they need. At the same time these moral practices give ample opportunity for ethical reflection. Which sort of morality should we teach students? Do we want them to be disciplined or creative? Education can be said to have the task of mastering the integration of the formal (ethics), the rational (work), the historical (tradition) and the legal (law) into the life of all, which is the state [1].

Discussion

Promoting ethics is one of the goals of education, but the free flow of communication and divulging unethical behaviors in e-learning make the urgent need to clarify ethical values.



Therefore, the aim of this study was to prepare ethical codes to develop and deliver e-contents. Ethics is one of the most important discussions and subjects in academic environments that are under close observations of international communities, regional organizations, policymakers, planners, researchers, and specialists of different sciences and technologies among many countries.



Moreover, the present age is the information age, and today's societies are called the information society; thus, the presence of information technologies and the discussion of e-learning has become increasingly important in today's world.



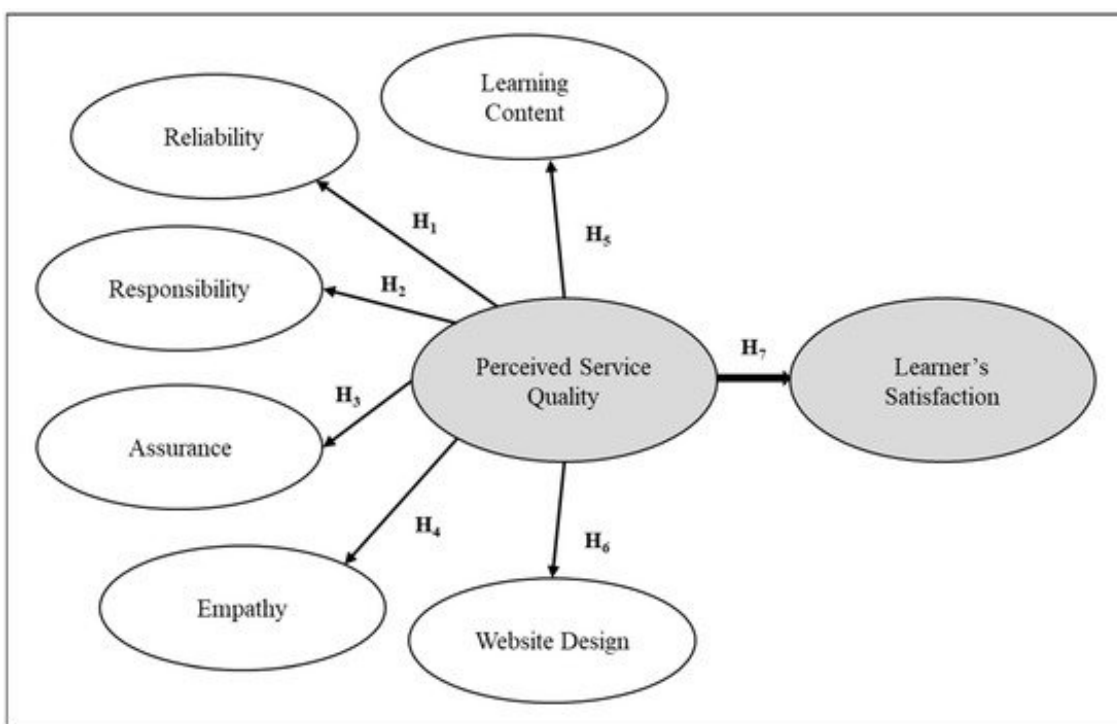
By the emergence of various education methods, different types of contents and electronic sources, instructions and ethical recommendations to use, access, retrieve, and distribute them through having relation with humans have become more important. In Iran, e-learning has been developed more than before and producing different types of e-contents has become one of the daily routines in academic institutions. Thus, to maintain individual's rights, including patients, employees, and contents producers, the need for ethical codes is felt more than ever. In the past, the General Guide to Ethics in Medical Science Research, the National Guide to Ethics in Medical Science Research, and Ethics Guidelines have been developed in specific areas that should be followed in the production of electronic content. However, given the differences in the nature of electronic content of academic products of faculty members, specialized codes need to be developed. In this study, the country code of ethics has been codified and presented.[2,3]

E-content: It refers to all the educational contents including multimedia, graphics, texts, images, slides, animations, simulations, gamifications, references and the archived contents that are produced after individuals' interactions and performed in electronic format.

Intellectual property: It is the ownership of issues such as idea, invention or a process that is produced by means of intellect and thoughtful work.[4,5]

Results

Ethics have existed and regarded as the means for evaluating human deeds. Nowadays, ethical discussions are more important than ever.



In different professions and majors, for functions and decisions to be homogeneous and to prevent applying personal opinions and taking actions which are harmful for the beneficiaries, developing and following ethical codes are inevitable. The existence of these codes and their efficacies on persons involving in that area are effective [8,9] Several ethical codes in technology and information security have been developed. This is mainly because of the presence of various information technology groups, as the result of which various opinions regarding the codes in this area have been developed. In the present study, these codes were reviewed analytically and the result of the reviews showed that the codes have dealt more to the security of data, users, skills and abilities,

contracts, and costs [6,7] In Iran, the general guideline of ethics among medical sciences' studies, national ethics guideline in publishing medical sciences' productions, and national ethical guidelines in special areas have been already developed and approved. However, there are some differences between technology-based contents with other scientific publications that shows the necessity of devising specific ethical codes. In this study, a set of ethical codes for e-contents was developed. Some of the codes or statements were similar to ethical codes for publication [10] but some new codes were added, and some concepts changed or summarized with respect to e-content specifications. This document can be used straight forwardly for e-contents.[11]

Conclusions

Ethical codes that are suitable for the structures and methods of preparing these contents should be delivered to detect infringements and not to follow the principles and standards to approve them based on documents. In this study, the ethical codes of e-contents were produced with the cooperation of related experts which could be used either in national or international scales.[11]

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