

An Investigation of the Limitations of Internet Connectivity to an Effective Implementation of Blended Learning in INTI-UC

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ABSTRACT

The educational sector has experienced significant growth in the recent years. It started from the face-to-face or traditional method of teaching and learning to e-learning. Now the centre of attention is blended learning which integrates the advantages of e-learning and those of traditional or classroom instructional approach together, thus, making teaching and learning more flexibility, convenient and productive.

An investigation on the internet connectivity in INTI-UC's hostels was carried out. The purpose of this research is to identify the networking problems that would limit the effective implementation of blended learning in INTI-UC, and to propose possible solutions that will bring about much improvement in the performance of the internet system. The research shows that, the internet service provided in the hostels is outsourced to an internet service provider. Further research revealed that the current condition of the networking system in the hostels is not effective and efficient enough to support e-learning and in particular, blended learning.

An attempt to resolve this problem called for a comprehensive research strategy. The research method applied is broken down into research design and data collection. Data was collected through interviews and administering of questionnaire to the students residing in INTI hostels. As for the questionnaires, the data collected were mostly quantitative in nature, and as such, we made use of statistical tools in analysing these data. The collected data was analysed using SPSS software, version 11.5 to be specific.

Detailed statistical analysis was done on the data after which the results were presented inform of frequency tables and bar charts. After much discussion on the results, conclusions where arrived at which however, addressed the individual

research questions. The conclusion of this research affirmed the existence of certain internet connectivity issues in INTI hostels. Some of these internet connectivity issues slow internet service speed, constant disconnection from the internet unwontedly, difficulty in logging into the internet etc However, possible solutions as well as suggestions were provided. These solutions range from increase in the bandwidth size allocated to each hostel block, upgrading to a more effective internet technology to the adoption of constant maintenance practices of the existing networking infrastructures. Most of the solutions proffered in this research were solutions obtained from similar problems successfully resolved elsewhere, although, some first hand suggestions were made.

At the very end of the whole exercise, recommendations for further research was made in the area of internet security as well as further research to find more solutions to the networking problems on ground, since some of the solutions might not be really feasible in this context.

Research ethics was actually observed here, the privacy of the interviewees was carefully protected by ensuring that, not a single information relating to their identity was disclosed in this research.

The main limitation faced in this research was that, the research was limited to INTI hostels. No information obtained beyond the hostels was put into consideration as part of the data that was analysed.

The success of this research depends on the accuracy of the data collected and the method of analysis as this will go a long way in improving/strengthening the internet connectivity, and in general, a successful implementation of blended learning in INTI-UC.