UiTM di hatiku

MOBILE LEARNING IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION

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Mobile learning, also known as m-learning, has become a new revolution of learning using mobile devices. Mobile learning enables users a continuous and vast access to the learning process. This can be performed using devices like hand phones, laptops or tablets. Mobile learning or m-learning is considered as the future form of e-learning using mobile technology to enable students to perform their learning process anywhere, any time at their convenience. The traditional e-learning system has two main types; one is of pedagogical services such as learning materials and the other is of information services such as admission, notification and registration. The use of m-learning is growing rapidly in the higher education environment due to its dynamic nature.

M-learning is easy because it is accessible from anywhere. Sharing is always possible and fast between users using the same content, which leads to instant feedbacks and tips. This highly active process has proven to increase exam scores from fifty to seventy percent, and reduce technical dropout rates by 22% (Saylor, 2012). M-learning has been replacing books and notes with only small devices, filled with comprehensive learning content. M-learning offers better deal to the users by being more cost effective, as the prices of digital contents on mobile devices drop dramatically compared to conventional medias such as books, and CDs.

Some researchers have conducted several studies on the m-learning. One study has looked into the importance of m-learning among university students in Malaysia. It is said that the university mobile services have given some positive impacts where the said services have been found to boost examination results and increase course registration (Naji Shukri Alzaza & Abdul Razak Yaakub, 2011). It is important for the higher learning institutions to take note on the significance of m-learning to move forward on the education aspect.

Furthermore, m-learning can assist in any types of education starting from the very early education i.e. the preschool until the higher level of education. Higher education is an ideal place for m-learning integration as mobile device availability has become very common for college students. Several m-learning experiments have been performed in higher education where, for

example, college students can answer their assessment as well as receive assessments and views from their instructors using the mobile devices (Crawford, 2007). In another example of m-learning application, a Quick Response (QR) code has been developed to offer more information online and to link to more available resources (Grant & Gikas, 2011). M-learning also provides more supportive attributes on the administrative tasks, such as tracking on students' attendance and learning development which can also be performed using a mobile device.

M-learning apps have offered several features that made it more recognizable and usable to their users especially the students (Ansari & Tripathi, 2017). And, they have further listed some features of m-learning as follows:

- M-learning apps breaks the time and place barrier.
- Individuals can conduct their learnings at their own pace and convenience.
- It creates a wider variety of activities for users than that of desktop and laptop technologies, which might differ significantly.
- It allows individuals to be highly mobile, which is the primary component and benefit of m-learning.
- It provides access to unlimited learning contents to any users having mobile gadgets and internet access.
- The revolution of powerful convergence and inter-connectedness of mobile devices, and the rapid growth of m-learning apps usage.
- The availability of advanced mobile systems, boom in m-learning apps development and usage, and rich user interfaces.

In conclusion, the usage of m-learning has become a trend at most higher learning institutions as an alternate way of learning. This is due to its easy accessibility, its importance and positive impacts to users. As discussed earlier, m-learning delivers many benefits to the institutions as well as the students. Therefore, all higher learning institutions should inculcate the culture of adoption of m-learning to keep themselves up-to-date with the current learning trend and be at par with other higher learning institutions, as well as to gain the many benefits offered by this application.

References

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