



The Importance of Distance Learning Platforms and Their Role in the Academic Achievement of University Students.

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Abstract ;

With the rapid advancement of technology and the widespread expansion of the internet, online learning platforms have become a fundamental pillar that university students rely on to enhance their academic achievement and attain better results in their educational journey. These platforms have provided vast opportunities for self-directed and flexible learning, enabling students to continue their studies without being restricted to physical attendance in traditional classrooms. This has led to breaking temporal and spatial barriers, contributing to an enhanced learning experience and greater accessibility to knowledge and various academic resources with ease and efficiency.

Online learning platforms are not merely an alternative to traditional education but rather an advanced educational tool that helps improve students' academic performance by providing a comprehensive learning environment. This environment includes various interactive tools that facilitate understanding and absorption of study materials. As technology continues to evolve, these platforms are expected to remain an essential component of the higher education system, with educational institutions increasingly relying on them to deliver advanced educational content that aligns with the demands of the digital age. Therefore, it is crucial for students to develop their digital skills and make the most of these tools to enhance their academic capabilities and achieve success in their studies.

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1. Introduction

Distance learning platforms are gaining increasing importance in the university education system, as they offer innovative solutions to traditional educational challenges and effectively contribute to students' academic achievement. These platforms provide flexibility in time and location, allowing students to learn according to their own schedules and from anywhere. This is particularly beneficial for those who face difficulties accessing the university due to work commitments or other circumstances.

One of the key aspects of the importance of distance learning platforms is their ability to deliver rich and diverse educational content, including video lectures, workshops, discussions, and interactive assessments. This approach supports various learning styles and helps deepen students' understanding of the subject matter, thereby enhancing their academic performance.

Additionally, these platforms encourage self-learning and the development of research and critical thinking skills, which are essential for success in both academic and professional environments. Distance learning platforms also provide opportunities for interaction and collaboration between students and professors through discussion forums and sessions, creating a dynamic learning

environment that contributes to improved academic achievement.

However, to maximize the benefits of these platforms, it is necessary to develop technological infrastructure and train professors in best practices for distance education. The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research has recently focused on this by requiring university administrators to provide diverse training for professors on modern technologies and educational processes, as well as offering technical support to students to address technical challenges. By achieving these elements, distance learning platforms can play a crucial role in enhancing the academic achievement of university students and better preparing them for the future.

The Importance of Distance Learning Platforms and Their Role in the Academic Achievement of University Students

Distance learning platforms have become (al-Rasheed, 2012, pp. 121,122)an integral part of the education system, particularly in the university context, for several reasons, including the educational benefits and flexibility they offer to students. Below is a summary of the importance of distance learning platforms and their role in the academic achievement of university students: (al-badeer, 2016, p. 132)

Flexibility and Access: Distance learning platforms offer a level of flexibility that traditional education cannot provide. Students can access study materials and participate in classes from anywhere and at any time, allowing them to balance their studies with other commitments.

Expanding Access to Education: These platforms have made university education accessible to many individuals who may not be able to attend traditional studies due to financial, geographical, or personal constraints.

Enhancing Interaction and Collaboration: Many distance learning platforms encourage collaboration and interaction between students and professors through discussion forums and group projects, enhancing teamwork and communication skills.

Personalizing the Learning Experience: These platforms can provide educational resources tailored to the needs and pace of each student, allowing for a more effective and individualized learning experience.

Empowering Students to Develop New Skills: In addition to providing access to education in their core fields of study, distance learning platforms also offer opportunities for students to learn and develop new skills, such as working with new technologies and self-directed learning. (Mamdouh, 2021, p. 118)

Improving Academic Performance:

Many studies have found that distance learning can lead to improvements in academic achievement and understanding of the material, thanks to the ability to review lectures and study materials repeatedly as needed.

Providing Up-to-Date Education: In a world characterized by constant change and the continuous need for new skills, distance learning platforms offer valuable resources that enable students to stay informed and learn the new skills required by the market.

Distance learning platforms play a vital role in modern education, providing opportunities for learning and academic achievement for students anytime and anywhere. They contribute to expanding access to knowledge and enable students to better manage their time and organize their schedules. Additionally, distance learning platforms offer diverse and interactive educational resources that help enhance understanding of the subject matter and develop students' critical and creative thinking skills. (Radouan, 2016 , p. 212)

What are Distance Learning Platforms in Algeria?

In Algeria, several distance learning platforms are used by educational institutions and universities. Among these

platforms are:

- **Moodle Platform:** Used by universities and educational institutions to manage online courses, where students can access educational resources, participate in discussions, and take tests.
- **E-learning Platform:** Offers various educational courses in different fields such as technology, languages, and personal development.

Individuals with Special Needs and Distance Learning Platforms in Algeria

In Algeria, there are increasing efforts to support individuals with special needs through distance learning platforms. Some platforms focus on providing diverse and customized educational resources for this category of students, aiming to create an inclusive and accommodating learning environment for their needs.

However, there is a need for platforms equipped with the necessary resources and advanced technology to support the needs of students with special needs, such as electronic translation, audio texts, simple interactions, user-friendly interfaces accessible via screen readers, and the provision of specialists in special education to support students and help them comprehend study materials.

How to Make Distance Learning Platforms Serve Individuals with Special Needs: (Ali, 2022, pp. 141-145)

To make distance learning platforms serve individuals with special needs, the following steps can be taken:

1. **Providing Screen Reader-Accessible User Interfaces:** Designing user interfaces that can be easily accessed via screen readers to assist students with visual impairments.
2. **Providing Content Accessible for Electronic Translation:** Offering educational content that can be translated into different languages or using electronic translation software to support students who have difficulty understanding the language. (Haitham, 2010, p. 135).
3. **Using Innovative E-Learning Technologies:** Utilizing innovative educational technologies such as virtual reality and augmented reality to provide useful and interactive learning experiences for students with special needs.
4. **Providing Audio Texts:** Offering audio texts for educational materials to assist students who have difficulty reading or writing.
5. **Providing Dedicated Technical Support:** Offering dedicated technical support for students with special needs to address technical issues they may encounter while using online learning

platforms.

6. Direct Communication with Students: Providing direct communication channels with students to gather their feedback and needs and offer appropriate support.

7. Providing Diverse Educational Resources: Offering diverse educational resources that respond to the needs of students with special needs and help them better understand the study materials.

Suggestions for Improving the Quality of Distance Learning Platforms in Universities

Here are some suggestions for improving the quality of distance learning platforms in universities:

1. Providing Training for Faculty Members: Offering training courses for faculty members to learn how to design and deliver online lessons effectively and use educational technology innovatively.

2. Developing Engaging and Diverse Educational Content: Developing diverse educational content that includes videos, interactive content, practical exercises, and live online lessons, helping to attract students' attention and enhance their learning experience.

3. Providing Technical Support for Students: Offering technical support to students to address technical issues they

may encounter while using online learning platforms.

4. Encouraging Active Interaction and Participation: Encouraging students to participate in online discussions, conduct group exercises, and collaborate with their peers through educational platforms.

5. Providing Regular Feedback: Providing regular feedback from professors on students' performance and progress in online courses.

6. Providing Comprehensive Assessment Tools: Offering diverse assessment methods, including written tests, group projects, and online interviews, to comprehensively evaluate students' performance.

7. Investing in Technological Infrastructure: Working on developing the technological infrastructure of universities to ensure the stability and smooth operation of online learning platforms and provide an excellent user experience for students and teachers.

Recommendations and Conclusions on the Importance of Distance Learning Platforms in the Academic Achievement of University Students in Algeria:

Recommendations:**1. Necessity of Developing Distance Learning Platforms:**

It is recommended to develop and improve distance learning platforms in Algeria to meet the needs of university students and enhance the quality of their educational experience.

2. Providing Continuous Training for Faculty Members:

It is recommended to provide continuous training courses for faculty members to learn how to use educational technology and apply best practices in designing and delivering online lessons.

3. Encouraging Research and Development:

Research and development should be encouraged in the field of developing distance learning platforms to use technology more effectively and creatively in enhancing students' learning experience.

4. Providing Dedicated Technical Support:

Dedicated technical support should be provided to students to address technical issues they may encounter while using distance learning platforms.

Conclusions:**1. Increased Access to Education:**

Distance learning platforms contribute to increasing access to education for university students in Algeria, especially for those who face

difficulties accessing traditional universities.

2. Improved Communication and Interaction:

Distance learning platforms enhance communication and interaction between students and professors and among students themselves, contributing to the exchange of ideas and experiences and stimulating learning.

3. Improved Quality and Effectiveness:

Distance learning platforms contribute to improving the quality and effectiveness of the learning process for university students in Algeria by providing diverse educational content and comprehensive assessment tools.

4. Development of Self-Learning Skills:

Distance learning platforms encourage students to develop self-learning skills and independence in exploring and applying study materials more effectively.

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