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Mobile Learning in Higher Education: Unavoidable Alternative during COVID-19

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ABSTRACT

Covid-19 is an acute respiratory disease caused by Coronavirus Sars-Cov-2. Declared recently as pandemic disease, Covid-19 has affected educational systems worldwide. Many countries around the world have closed educational institutions to reduce the spread of this pandemic. Hence, Education in high schools is facing unprecedented challenges.

This paper reflects on the role of mobile learning as remote teaching strategies sustaining student-centered learning.

The use of mobile learning allows learning anytime, anyplace, and anywhere. Mobile Learning is an unavoidable alternative during COVID-19.

Keywords: mobile learning, coronavirus, pedagogical method

COVID-19 is an acute respiratory disease caused by Coronavirus Sars-Cov-2 (World Health Organization, 2020a). Since who declared COVID-19 as pandemic disease (World Health Organization, 2020b), Many countries worldwide have responded seriously to this pandemic. A battery of precautionary measures has taken to stop the spread of the virus. Hence, thousands of universities and colleges have been closed to encourage social distancing measures and thus limit the spread of the virus.

Under this pandemic, Educational institutions, are presented with surmounting challenges in its education system. the COVID-19 will have an impact on the educational provision. Hence, there will be a drop especially in national examinations (Sintema & Education, 2020). This critical situation brings to light many concerns such as deterioration of the quality of education and the future of the students (Usak, Masalimova, Cherdymova, & Shaidullina, 2020).

Then, there is a greater need for educational institutions to strengthen the practices in the curriculum and the use of innovative teaching techniques and approaches will be a paramount importance (Toquero, 2020).

Several research on mobile learning has been conducted in order to understand the use of mobile devices in educational settings (Sönmez, Göçmez, Uygun, Ataizi, & Learning, 2018).

Indeed, mobile devices are becoming ubiquitous. This opportunity suggests that the use of mobile learning would be valuable for both students and teachers (Aubusson, Schuck, & Burden, 2009).

Mobile Learning denote learning involving the use of a mobile device (Crompton, Burke, & Education, 2018). It has several advantages and benefits. First, this teaching method can occur at anyplace, anytime, and anywhere and the learning process is not limited to one particular place (Corbeil & Valdes-Corbeil, 2007). Besides, it allows teachers to personalize instruction (Steel, 2012) and allow students to self-regulate learning (Sha, Looi, Chen, & Zhang, 2012).

Generally, mobile learning helps students to develop technological skills, conversational skills, find answers to their questions, develop a sense of collaboration, allow knowledge sharing, and hence leverage their learning outcomes (Al-Emran, Elsherif, & Shaalan, 2016).

The quick transition to E-learning went successful and gained experience can be used in the future. The lesson learned from the COVID -19 will force a generation of new laws, regulations, platforms and solutions for future cases (Basilaia & Kvavadze, 2020).

The circumstances of confinement caused by the coronavirus, and to ensure continuity of teaching for students,

mobile learning is an essential educational technology component in higher education. It makes it possible for students to learn, collaborate, and share ideas.

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