ONLINE DISCUSSION FORUM

MUHAMMED SHABEER MP

ABSTRACT

The world is fast becoming a global village with so rapid a growth in technology. A web discussion forum is a platform or a section on a website, that allows easy flow of communication among people, thereby enhancing the share of information, ideas and knowledge. The world is fast becoming a global village due to the effect of globalization and rapid growth in technology. With the challenges faced by many students in a bit to carry out their assignments, projects and passing of important information, the researcher deem it fit to create a social platform where students can easily and accessibly ask IT related questions bothering their minds with sole aim to get befitting answers. The result shows that users can successfully interact with their peers through the platform. This is in a bit to harmonize with the educational philosophy that makes communication a necessary tool and fundamental mechanism for effective learning. This study designed a web based discussion forum where students in tertiary institutions can come together to interact without the fear of prejudice. It was discovered that the interactions of the learners, their participation in the technology-mediated education was essential for the quality of learning experience acquired over the cost of the time.

Online discussion forum is an electronic platform for online learning, discussion, knowledge sharing, and information dissemination. states that Online discussion forum is a web-based application that brings people together with shared interest and mind-set, and members have the privilege to post messages to the discussion threads, interact and receive feedback from other students and instructors, and hence create a deeper understanding of the subject matter being discussed. Online Discussion Forum is a form of learning through networking which provide opportunities for students to seek, obtain, and share information, and it has beneficial impact on the teaching and learning process [20]. It can improve student’s ability to lead a discussion or to think critically to contribute productively or respond to a given discussion. It can improve student problem solving skills and competitive spirit among their peers. Students can read threads of comments and contributions made by their peers, and then compare their knowledge and bring out meaning on the topic being discussed. Student participation in an online forum enables them to think deeply in order to contribute effectively on the platform or to be seen to be relevant during discussions. This can improve their critical thinking skills and understanding of concepts considering the fact that they have the opportunity to read through several comments of different views or approach to solving a particular problem. Having access to different views on a topic provided by other members of the forum in addition to that of the teacher (facilitator) can enhance student understanding of a given course content. Students who participate in Online Discussion Forums can easily formulate answers to assignment and examination questions because the platform affords them the opportunity to have huge access to several threads of discussions and suggestions on a given course content which tend to build their confidence to attempt or respond more accurately to questions that arise in the course. Therefore, it promotes dialogue, deep learning and research mindset among students. Online discussion forums promote student-centred learning, making it possible for students to take charge and coordinate a discussion.stated that increase in students’ participation in online discussion forum increases their learning outcomes and achievement. They also identified four prominent pattern of participation in Online Discussion forum, ranging from Socratic questioning, sharing of personal opinion and experiences, brainstorming and reaction posting