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PREFACE

Global Academic Research Institute is proud to present 02nd International Conference on Education and Distance Learning (02nd ICEDL 2016) which is a continuation of a series of successful research symposium. The Inaugural Session and the Technical Sessions were conducted on 01st July 2016 @ Gall Face Hotel, Colombo, Sri Lanka. The conference was organized into main Education and Distance Learning which empirical, conceptual and methodological papers were received from academics, practitioners and public policy makers were accepted paying austere attention to the academic standards of the papers. To maintain consistency, authors were prescribed to follow the academic writing format of the GARI Publishers. The reviewing process was apparently transparent where papers underwent a double blinded review process by eminent subject specialists in respective areas. Thus refereed full papers selected to be presented at the conference were published here. We do not assume any responsibility for any errors or omissions in the research papers which rests solely with the authors.

Special thank goes to an enlightening key note addresses was delivered as well as Chaired by Mr. Chandana Kasturi Arachchi (Faculty of Education, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka). The organizing committee specially thanks to our Journal Publications GARI Publishers and International Journal of Education and Distance Learning, International Journal of Social Science and Humanities, Further the support given by Sri Lankan Air-line as our international Air-line partner and Cinnamon Air as Official Domestic Airline Partner, Official Creative Partner Dream Angle. The conference committee expresses deep gratitude to the panel of reviewers for the priceless service rendered. Finally the committee extends sincere thanks to the presenters and participants for the valuable contribution and active participation.

Conference Committee
02nd ICEDL2016

ABOUT SRI LANKA

This is an island of magical proportions, once known as Serendib, Taprobane, the Pearl of the Indian Ocean, and Ceylon. Set in the Indian Ocean in South Asia, the tropical island nation of Sri Lanka has a history dating back to the birth of time. It is a place where the original soul of Buddhism still flourishes and where nature's beauty remains abundant and un-spoilt. Few places in the world can offer the traveller such a remarkable combination of stunning landscapes, pristine beaches, captivating cultural heritage and unique experiences within such a compact location. Within a mere area of 65,610 kilometers lie 8 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, 1,330 kilometers of coastline - much of it pristine beach - 15 national parks showcasing an abundance of wildlife, nearly 500,000 acres of lush tea estates, 250 acres of botanical gardens, 350 waterfalls, 25,000 water bodies, to a culture that extends back to over 2,500 years. Sri Lankan cinnamon, ivory and gems had been the main cause for invasion of two nations, Portuguese and Dutch, who followed the Moor traders to the country in search of the world's best spices and riches. According to the Dutch, who reorganized the cultivation and marketing of cinnamon in Sri Lanka, the 'shores of Sri Lanka had been full of it, that you can smell it eight leagues out to sea'. Even today the country produces the world best cinnamon and one of the world's top cinnamon exporters. With Endless beaches, timeless ruins, welcoming people, herds of elephants, killer surf, cheap prices, fun trains, famous tea, flavorful food, newly gained peace and improved infrastructure Sri Lanka had been repeatedly named the next tourist destination worth all the investments. Meanwhile Sri Lanka is fast gaining popularity in the MICE tourism industry, with 11% of the total visitors coming into the country representing the segment, while the industry anticipates the arrival of 240,000 MICE tourists by 2016, which is nearly 10% of the 2.5 million tourist target. With more than one million tourist arrivals in 2012 the Sri Lankan tourism service providers has set a target of 22,500 rooms in the next five years when tourist arrivals are expected to reach 2.5 million.

Discover Refreshingly Sri Lanka!

About 02nd ICEDL 2016

The wealth of knowledge acquired by an individual after studying particular subject matters or experiencing life lessons that provide an understanding of something. Education requires instruction of some sort from an individual or composed literature. Distance learning is a planned teaching/learning experience that uses a wide spectrum of technologies to reach learners at a distance and is designed to encourage learner interaction and certification of learning. During recent years, Education field is undergoing with lot of changes due to the evolutions of network technology. It has influenced on the patterns of learning, teaching & education without the limitation of time and space. With the complexity of peoples' life, the time source has become the most scare resource & the space has become the one of the restriction for the traditional education & learning pattern.

02nd International Conference on Education and Distance Learning (2nd ICEDL 2016) that held on the beautiful green city of Colombo organized by GLOBAL ACADEMIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE. The conference will be held on 01st July 2016 @ Gall Face Hotel, Colombo, Sri Lanka. Conference will bring together many distinguished researchers from all over the world. Participants will find opportunities for presenting new research, exchanging information, and discussing current issues. The Research proposals for papers on any issue relating to Education and Distance Learning, including those addressing this year's conference theme. Please note that though you need send a proposed title and abstract at this stage, speakers are encouraged to submit a full paper before the conference. All full paper submissions will be peer reviewed and evaluated based on originality, technical and /or research content / depth, correctness, relevance to conference, contributions, and readability. The full paper submissions will be chosen based on technical merit, interest, applicability, and how well they fit a coherent and balanced technical program.

We look forward to seeing you in Colombo!

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02nd International Conference on Education and Distance Learning 2016

Chair and Keynote Speaker

Title: **School Based Management in Sri Lanka**

Mr. Chandana Kasturi Arachchi
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LOCAL COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND THE PROGRAMME OF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

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ABSTRACT

This study anticipated to explore the nature of community participation in the schools where the Programme of School Improvement (PSI) is implemented in Sri Lanka. Ministry of Education in Sri Lanka has projected to enhance the community participation in school decisions implementing the Programme of School Improvement since 2006 (Ministry of Education, 2013). The location of this research was Colombo district schools. In particular, this study aimed to explore the nature of the participation of community members in school, and to identify constraints and challenges related to the community participation in the PSI implemented schools. Since this study aimed to explore insights and experiences of the participants on the PSI implementation, case study research approach was used. Questionnaires, document surveys and interviews were employed to gather information from principals, deputy principals, teaching staff, parents and past pupils of School Development Committees (SDC), and participants represent ten schools. Descriptive statistics and thematic analysis were employed to analyze data. Findings revealed that the internal community members of schools are not enthusiastic to welcome ideas, suggestions and criticisms of external community members when they make decisions at school level. However, the participative decision making approach has not much promoted the concept of democracy among local stakeholders though they like to participate in school development. The principals are also challenged in encouraging the involvement and participation of community members in school development. Inadequate parental participation is a problem for effective implementation of the PSI in the public schools in Sri Lanka. The governing board decisions are sometimes negatively influenced by the principal. Therefore, the decision making process is not democratic and transparent. Lack of time, insufficient financial recourses, and less commitment of higher officers negatively affect for the community participation and decision making in the PSI schools.

Key Words: Community involvement, Decision making, Participation, School Based Management, Programme of School Improvement

INNOVATIVE AND INTERACTIVE TEACHING METHODS FOR IMPROVING LEARNING QUALITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

Teaching and learning are the two sides of a coin or it is like a mirror image. The most accepted criterion for measuring good teaching is the amount of student learning that occurs. There are consistently high correlations between students' ratings of the "amount learned" in the course and their overall ratings of the teacher and the course. Teachers are using different methods depending on the nature of subject, number of students, and the facilities available in the classroom. Lecture method, Group discussion, Individual presentation, Assignment, Seminars, Workshops, Role play and Case study are various common methods using in classroom teaching. Whereas in distance learning process, the teacher stayed in one location and provide notes & instructions and students learnt lessons by staying another convenient location as required. Internet generation students like to interact themselves in collaborative environment which facilitates the understanding and learning. Hence teacher centered teaching methods are obsoleted and students prefer learner centered teaching methods. Many interactive technology including web based or internet based learning and teaching are the main feature of the learner centered teaching. This paper illustrates the innovative and interactive teaching methods in classroom teaching, application of best practices for distance & online teaching and online teaching & learning techniques use in universities or higher education institutes.

Keywords: Teaching Methods, Teaching and Learning Techniques, Learner centered teaching methods.

SATISFACTION OF CLINICAL PLACEMENT FOR NURSING LEARNERS: EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE FROM OPEN UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to determine the satisfaction of clinical placement that the nursing learners experienced during clinical placement in Open University Malaysia (OUM). Face to face data collection methodology using convenience sampling was used to enhance the response rate. A total of 192 usable questionnaires were used in the data analysis procedure. The distribution of data in this study is normal evident by (Kurtosis < 3.00; Skewness < 2.00). Validity (KMO = .95) and reliability of the constructs (Cronbach alpha > .90) have been reported in this paper indicating the credibility of the data. Factor analysis for the independent variable converged into two factors, namely preliminary learning experience and learning opportunities. Factor analysis performed is a novel contribution in view of narrowing the methodological gap in this area of study. There is a significant relationship is found when preliminary learning experience was regressed against clinical placement satisfaction (p = .86). This study also highlighted variety of issues that should be addressed in relation to satisfaction of clinical placement for nursing learners in OUM, so that identifying different learning opportunity will help the nursing learners to be satisfied with the theoretical education.

Keyword: distance learning, open-distance learning, nursing education, clinical placement, satisfaction

ANALYSIS OF DETERMINANTS OF IMPLEMENTING AN EFFECTIVE BLENDED LEARNING MODEL IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN SRI LANKA: REVIEW OF LITERATURE

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ABSTRACT

Demand for Higher Education in Sri Lanka has not fully met by the Sri Lankan government. Even though private higher education in Sri Lanka is expanding with collaboration of foreign universities, still there is room for expansion in higher education. With the limited physical resources and Human resources, expansion of higher education is also limited. Among the various technologies and techniques adopted by many countries to overcome such difficulties blended learning is one of the popular techniques. Many universities have implemented blended learning due to its vast advantages which includes increasing student intake, maximum utilization of human expertise irrespective of the geological location, improving soft skills of students, improving motivation for studies and so forth. This study work as a foundation of identifying the suitable blended learning framework for Sri Lanka. As the foundation, this research has identified the key determinants of an effective blended learning model for Sri Lanka based on the literature. The study has reviewed more than 50 articles on blended learning models published during the past decade and identified the key determinants that are suitable for the Sri Lankan Higher education sector. This study identified that student perception, staff perception, institutional processes, technical support and course content are among the highly concerned determinants of an effective blended model. This study encourages further research to identify level of importance of each of the determinant to implementation of an effective blended learning model.

Key words: Higher Education, Blended learning, Determinants

ELEARNING: A NORMATIVE PRESCRIPTIVE

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ABSTRACT

According to the learning experts, there are three basic learning styles. Auditory learning; which occurs through hearing, Kinesthetic learning, which occurs through interaction; and Visual learning which occurs through visual observation. There is evidence, however, that states that if teaching tactics were to at least cover some aspects of all learning styles, there would be a greater degree of success that would be apparent in the learner. Studies have shown that when an instructor connects teaching techniques to the ways in which students learn, this can significantly enhance academic achievement, student attitudes, and student behavior, thereby improving the learning curve of the student. Now, that being the ultimate goal of any instructor, we, as online education course developers must include some degree of learning development theories in our approach. When courses are given online, instructors cannot interact directly with the students, hence they do not know the best teaching method to employ. Therefore, it becomes imperative to take into account or incorporate all learning styles and formats in order to attain successful impartation of knowledge and education.

Keywords: elearning, learning styles, academic achievement, education

IMPACT OF VIRTUAL LEARNING FOR IMPROVING QUALITY OF LEARNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

In traditional learning, 'teacher centered' learning methods play the major role whereas currently higher education institutions move to use 'learner centered' teaching methods. In this context, the use of technology to enhance learning plays an important role to enable students to engage fully in their programme of study. Higher Education will be changed moderately by 2020 from the way it is at present. To meet the current trends in higher education sector, almost every Higher Education Institute enhance technological facilities and services including Learning Management System (LMS) and Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) which are accessible for a wide range of potential student requirements as the heart of the teaching and e-learning programmes. The VLE is an online system or learning platform, which allows teachers to share educational materials with their students via the web. The most common VLEs are Moodle, Fronter, WebCT, Frog, LP+, Blackboard and Kaleidos. VLEs. For a student to be able to access a 'Virtual' room as either a duplicate or extension of their physical classroom is a clear advantage for learners and teachers alike. Every educational establishment should to integrate a VLE into their lessons or programmes and allow it to become second nature to learners and educators outside of the classroom. This paper illustrates an Introduction to the Virtual Learning, main features & impact of the VLE, usage of VLE & LMS and how to increase the productivity of virtual learning

Keywords: Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), Learning Management System (LMS), Web-based Learning

THE INCORPORATION OF IPAD INTO ENGLISH VOCABULARY LEARNING: A CASE STUDY IN TAIWAN

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to discuss the effects of the incorporation of a tablet device, iPad, into English vocabulary teaching and learning in a foreign language learning environment in Taiwan. With the first introduction of iPad on the market, it has dominated the tablet market and been widely applied in different scenarios, including education. The application of iPad in English learning is also starting to gain attention recently. This research invited two students of iPad owners to participate in an experiment on the application of iPad in their English vocabulary learning in order to see how much they have progressed in their vocabulary learning. Data are collected from their class performance and interviews. The results positively show a promising future on the application of iPad in English vocabulary learning and suggest that with adequate vocabulary learning applications and a suitable design of English vocabulary class, the assistance iPad can provide for learning can be maximized to benefit language learners.

Keywords: MALL (mobile-assisted language learning), English vocabulary learning

E-LEARNING IN INFORMATION MANAGEMENT (IM) EDUCATION IN SRI LANKA: DISCUSSION OF THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL AND CULTU*RAL FACTORS*

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ABSTRACT

This paper outlines one of the key factors identified by the PhD study: the impact of social and cultural factors. It reports on a study that investigated the issues impacting on the introduction and use of e-learning in tertiary level Information Management (IM) education in Sri Lanka. This was an interpretive case study research which made use of qualitative methods: semi-structured interviews, focus group discussions, and documentary evidence. Thirty semi-structured interviews were conducted with information management education providers, existing e-learning providers and relevant stakeholders, and three focus group discussions were conducted with information workers and academics. Relevant documents were also analysed: (i) official government documents, e.g. policies, reports, and announcements; (ii) official documents from private sources, e.g. administrative documents, proposals, progress reports, and other internal records; and (iii) relevant internet resources. The research identified that a range of social and cultural factors have an impact on the introduction and use of e-learning in tertiary-level IM education in Sri Lanka. These are grouped into three categories: readiness to move into student-centred e-learning, lack of acceptance of e-learning programmes in Sri Lankan society; and social exclusiveness.

Keyword: E-Learning, Information Management Education, Sri Lanka, Social and cultural factors

A MODEL OF THE INDIVIDUAL COMPETENCY DEVELOPMENT OF A MANAGER

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ABSTRACT

Digital technologies have already totally changed our media, banking and industry, so today these important changes are now needed and expected in our educational systems as well. The development of education in the wider population along with the development of digital technologies enable and empower the individualization of a managers education- which nowadays takes place both at university and concurrently at the workplace. This is the main way how to optimize the costs of an education system and how to implement Robinson principles. Involvement of the workplace and working activities, and their incorporation into the development and competence of a manager, brings the university much closer together with regional development. The university has thus now become a guarantor of Knowledge Management, and is successfully transferring this knowledge into practice. In such an envisaged model of learning, knowledge is now delivered via video-conferencing, e-learning and mobile technologies. Hence, the student can start to participate in the design of their own studies and to fully dedicate themselves to the development of their community and society. All of this now as a major part of their learning activities. The university sector thus needs to employ a new perpetual vision of the university, one where it becomes both the facilitator and the designer of the future of our society. This can be achieved through the work and dedication of its academic staff, its students, graduates and stakeholders. A high quality distance learning system can most definitely contribute to this.

Keywords: digital technologies, manager, knowledge management, Robinson principles

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