

Moodle in Nursing Education: a Review Article

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Abstract: *Information and Communication Technology has effected the nursing education system in a very positive way. Earlier around three decades back we had heard of emails, then came video conferencing, webinars, and now a lot number of softwares / applications are available to assist in teaching. Web based technologies are now being used in many institutions along with traditional classroom practices. Moodle is one of the open source software, which is used as a learning management system. It is user friendly, convenient and much flexible for a motivated student. Traditional teaching with these newer technologies can provide learning in an enriched manner. These web based online teachings have been quite helpful for students and teachers in the times of lockdown during Corona pandemic.*

Keywords: Moodle, LMS, traditional teaching, ICT

1. Introduction

Earlier, in nursing profession, in north India, we had heard of distance education which was given by IGNOU, where students had to submit their assignments through post and attend occasional classes to get post basic nursing degree.

Since then, enormous developments have taken place in the field of nursing and the manner in which students are being taught. The progression in the technology has influenced our lives and education system. Information and communication technology (ICT) has enabled the educators and students to use various innovative teaching methods.

Web based teaching provides open, flexible and learner based environment. Online instructions are distributed over the internet or intranet and conveyed with the help of different browsers.

Virtual learning environments are a group of teaching and learning tools which help in enhancing the learning experience of students through the inclusion of internet and computers in the teaching learning process. The current model of education is undergoing changes, renovations, and increasing use of the advancing technological resources such as the Learning Management System (LMS). LMS is an educational technology that provides an excellent e-learning media by integrating various features. It provides a convenient platform for creating and distributing teaching materials, facilitating communication among various users, and enabling collaboration. This software helps in tracking, delivering and managing online education and training. It helps teachers to provide and share documents, assignments, question papers, etc. with students in an easy-to-learn way, and to establish quality on-line courses.

MOODLE (Modular Object-Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment) is a web-based open-source LMS, developed by Martin Dougiamas at Curtin University in Western Australia. MOODLE is widely accepted and adopted as it helps teachers to create high-quality online study materials. It is one of the most widely used and easiest to use open-source e-learning platforms in higher education. It allows the

integration of a wide range of resources, from chats and forums to online booklet, a variety of questions, exercises and lecture notes, in addition to multimedia resources such as graphics, video or audio, PowerPoint, and Flash-based applications.

To use MOODLE, it must be firstly installed on a main server, then an administrator configures the settings to enable access through user names and passwords. The users can access it through the Internet because it is web based and there is no need to install anything locally. It is written in php with an SQL database. It gets updates time to time for smoother functioning and modification.

Moodle in nursing and medical courses

Many international universities and medical institutes have integrated Moodle in their medical education and literature supports the use and importance of such softwares.

A. Memon and F. Rathore (2018) in their article recommended that Pakistani medical schools should consider using Moodle as an online learning platform to promote blended learning in order to enhance the training of students and faculty, and improving their standards in line with the international standards. (1)

MarwaFathalla Mostafa et al (2017) conducted a study to explore students' perception, experience and barriers towards using Moodle as a new path for nursing education. It was found that students' perception is affected by their experience and motivation; two thirds of the participants stated that, they were able to use Moodle and stated Moodle is easy to use. (2)

Reis LOet al (2015) conducted a study to subjectively and objectively compare an accessible interactive electronic library using Moodle with lectures for urology teaching of medical students. It was concluded that Moodle platform is feasible and effective, enthusing medical students to learn, improving immersion in the urology clinical rotation and encouraging the spontaneous peer assisted learning. (3)

Advantages of Moodle

- It is a customizable tool along with flexibility to adapt the changes
- It can be used for anytime, anywhere learning
- It helps in getting real insights in the learners, courses and teachers with the help of tables, charts, diagrams, etc
- It helps in creating a modern learning environment for the students
- It helps in engaging students in learning activities and maintain their interest
- It provides diversity among the teaching methods
- It helps in open and better communication
- Students can submit their assignments anytime
- It helps in sharing course resources like articles, videos, pictures, etc

2. Limitations of Moodle

Access to computer and continuous internet supply is must for using LMS system. The website can shut down during the quiz or students may not get the course materials. When there are more users, it may become slower. The success of moodle depends on the motivation and enthusiasm of students and faculty members. The traditional teachers may not find it comfortable to use new innovative techniques.

3. Summary

Using Moodle in teaching improves learners' communicative language skills and includes social interaction between educators and students. Role of LMS in faculty development, and capability building in nursing education is unequivocal. It has proved quite beneficial during work from situation when there is complete lockdown during corona pandemic.

Conflict of Interest- None

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