Abstract

UAE moved recently to Smart applications in all fields. The Ministry of Education has coped with these changes by digitizing of curricular and supportive instructional materials. It made them available through the "Digital Library" through a project adopted and implemented by the Educational Systems department in the ministry in collaboration with the curricular Department and some international companies specialized in digital content. To extend the benefit of this interactive digital educational content, it has been included in the official web portal of the Ministry. The project has been included within H.H Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Smart Learning Program initiative starting in the academic year 2013/2014 Where the UAE government tended to shift from E-learning to the Smart Learning using smart applications and new technologies of phones and tablets of all kinds. Since this topic is of a great importance, the current action study addressed a questionnaire that has been evaluated before approval to determine the dimensions of the problem of the existence of "digital library of interactive educational e-contents". It also looked into the reasons behind not using it as it should be despite its importance and its role in supporting e-learning and the smart learning applications.

The data collected by the questionnaire has shown that the use of interactive educational E-content is still suffering from the lack of insufficient awareness. There are problems faced by such projects to achieve the best benefit, most notably a lack of training and limitations, and the lack of ongoing field follow-up to monitor feedback from users of smart applications as well as the need for a unified national strategy to activate usage by linking these applications and learning and teaching inside classrooms. These also included the lack of clarity about the transformation of education patterns using conventional printed books to digital books and smart applications associated with them. No doubt, the results of the current study could be the launching point to further studies in the future to diagnose the reality of the shift towards smart learning, and then suggest the best ways and proposals to improve the educational process. This is in addition to supporting the ministry's initiatives to develop education in the United Arab Emirates and adopting initiatives that achieve her leadership in this area.

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Digital library and its role in the development of e-learning in the UAE

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