THE IMPORTANCE OF PROVIDING EDUCATION THROUGH BLENDED LEARNING METHODS TO INCREASE NURSING STUDENT KNOWLEDGE

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1. Introduction

In today's modern education, the paradigm of providing education through the e-learning method is an alternative learning model rather than just from through face to face interaction. In simple terms, e-learning is defined as learning process using electronic media, which aims to improve student knowledge and performance. E-learning is said to be important to build the education sector in Indonesia, especially as an effort to increase equity and access to education. The application of e-learning is very relevant for the future of health education or program that lead to continuous professional education. E-learning is appropriate to our current condition regarding the Covid-19 Pandemic which face-to-face meetings is limited to prevent the spread of Covid-19. However, in Indonesia there are still few health institutions that implement this electronic-based system. Several studies showed that there was higher enthusiasm of College in using e-learning because electronic-based learning is easier for students to apply and trains students to be more creative and not clueless (Fandianta, Sanjaya, & Widyandana, 2013). An assessment of the benefits and differences of the learning process using e-learning needs to be done, especially for health education. This article will analyze the use of e-learning media for the teaching and learning process in health education. In addition, is to identify barriers to the application of e-learning for students. The rapid development of technology has affect various aspects of our life including in educational aspect. Therefore, educational institutions must anticipate these developments by continuously striving for a program that is in accordance with the student's needs. It is necessary to carry out educational innovations by implementing e-learning. Electronic learning is a new way of teaching and learning that uses electronic media, especially the internet as a learning system (Silahuddin, 2015).

Theoretically, the use of learning technology has been developing for a long time, and is also applied by several educational institutions in Indonesia. However, its use was more massive during the Covid-19 pandemic. All regions in Indonesia are affected by covid-19 in all sectors, including education sector. Education process has changed from learning in the classroom to learning within the network. Blended learning is a learning process that uses one of the learning models, a model that is assumed to be able to overcome learning difficulties when direct face-to-face contact between teachers and students is not allowed (Panambaian, 2020).

Student-centered learning (e-learning) which is carried out recently does not limit student's place and time so that nursing students will not experience difficulties in doing creativity and innovation in order to develop nursing knowledge and skills. This learning method has been applied in foreign universities in a distance learning process where students do not need to meet the lecturer face to face. In Indonesia, this method has been done by the information system education (Sianturi & Lisum, 2018).

Comparing the student's ability to understand concepts and procedures using blended learning and e-learning methods, E-Learning is more effective. If the conventional method and e-learning are combined, it will have a positive impact on nursing student 's motivation and to achieve the expected abilities and competencies (Laili & Tanoto, 2020).

The results of the study explained that mixed learning was a combination of face-to-face learning and online learning. This strategy is a new strategy that introduced to students. The change in conventional learning strategies to blended learning is a tradition of the teaching and learning process. Cognitive abilities come from social and cultural relationships. Socializing with other people can spur the construction of new ideas and improve student intellectual development (Kusumaningrum & Sundari, 2019).

2. Discussion

1) . E-Learning definitions

E-learning is a learning process that is structured using computer and electronic network systems in result it is able to support a continuous learning process.

E-Learning is also a learning system and process that is used as a facility and implemented without meeting in person.

2) E-Learning Characteristics

In its implementation, there are several things that become the main criteria for e-learning, namely:

a) learning methods that utilize technology and digital services;

b) Speaking of teaching materials, teaching materials in e-learning are usually independent materials and in a digital form. Then, the material is stored in a computing system. This means that it can be accessed by teachers and trainees anywhere and anytime.

c) e-learning can take advantage of the learning schedule, create a curriculum and education administration system that can be accessed at any time via a computer network. In addition, according to Nursalam, he divided the important role of e-learning into several points, as follows:

    a) The first characteristic of e-learning is independent, which means being able to stand alone. E-learning can be achieved by teachers and students through a computer that stores interesting teaching materials.

    b) Using a complete learning schedule, an appropriate curriculum, progress on learning outcomes, and relationships related to educational administration that can be accessed by anyone who uses a computer.

    c) Using electronic technology, computer networks, and internet networks that are accessed by everyone.

3) Benefits of E-Learning.

The impact and benefits of e-learning can be perceived by all side. Even more for a larger organizations or companies. Broadly speaking, This method makes it easy for trainees or students to obtain optimal material.

The benefits of e-learning include:

a) Supporting the learning process. Students can easily access material in digital form easily. This has a positive impact on students. Students can access material easily anywhere anytime with the material they want.

b) Learning time is more flexible. Students also have difficulty determining the right study time. Especially if they have to sort out what material should be studied in a conventional way. With e-learning, participants can determine student learning time. Because, this e-learning method is equipped with a variety of features that students can use. Then, e-learning also provides benefits in terms of accessibility. Both teachers and students can be received intensively anywhere and anytime. Students even easily repeat learning material when they don't understand it well.

c) E-Learning can monitor student performance. For teachers, the existence of e-learning can also be used to supervise or monitor student's progress. Especially in the achievement of the material that had been given. Both teachers and learning managers may find a solution to problems in teaching and learning process. For example, when a participant does not succeed in an exam, the teacher can offer a learning method that suits the student's needs. In e-learning, there is also a reporting and analysis feature regarding what difficulties the participants have. From here, the instructors can identify what needs can be applied to the participants regarding the right method.

d) E-Learning saves learning costs. The last benefit that can be obtained when using e-learning is to save costs. For institutions or companies, the benefits that can be felt are reducing training costs. Since everything is done online so that it can minimize other additional costs needed like in conventional classes. Examples include the cost of renting classrooms, accommodation and printing learning materials, because all materials are available in digital form. From the explanation above, it can be concluded that e-learning can provide the best benefits for both students and teachers

e) E-Learning trains students to learn independently. The e-learning system provides the benefit of being able to study independently for students who access teaching materials via computer networks. This gives teachers and students the opportunity to independently take control of the success of the learning process.

4). Advantages and Disadvantages of E-Learning.

a. Advantages

1. Easy to learn, e-learning in its learning practice uses multimedia devices that produce images or videos that are easy to understand.

2. E-learning tends to be more cost effective. The e-learning system does not need an instructor, does not require a certain number of students, can be accessed anywhere and anytime.

3. More concisely, the e-learning system is not on a formal atmosphere compared to classroom, it directly focuses on one subject that suits student needs.

4. Available 24 hours in a day for assignments, learning materials, depending on the condition of students' enthusiasm and absorption, and can be directly supervised.

b. Disadvantages
1. E-learning minimize face-to-face interaction between lecturers and students or even among students themselves. From this minimum contact, academic and social aspects can be neglected, in fact it actually grows the business aspects of the e-learning system project.
2. Teaching and learning processes that can turn into a training forum rather than actual education in the classroom. It happens because lack of interaction between students and lecturers, because it focuses on the e-learning system.
3. The role of a lecturer or lecturer is starting to be replaced by technology. A teacher who previously understood the form and framework of ordinary learning, is now required to be able to master learning techniques using e-learning.
4. Lack of internet facilities in all learning places including remote areas. In addition, there is still a lack of lecturer resources at the institution who understand e-learning.
5. Lack of understanding computer language in education. This results in students being confused if they cannot access e-learning due to inadequate equipment.

3. Closing Chapter / Conclusion (pilih salah satu)

1. Conclusion
    a. E-Learning is a concept or learning method that utilizes digital technology. In addition, education experts define e-learning as a distance learning process by combining learning principles with technology.
    b. the learning system does not focus on face-to-face meetings between trainees and teachers in the classroom. Instead, through a digital process that can be accessed anywhere and anytime.
    c. The e-learning system is suitable during the Covid-19 pandemic which physical contact between lecturers and students is limited to prevent the spread of Covid-19.
    d. The learning system has an impact on world education and even in Indonesia. For example the emergence of e-learning that are online-based learning.
2. Suggestions
    a. Blended Learning should be used for theoretical learning only. This learning model is very helpful especially during the current Pandemic, it is used to minimize meetings with students to prevent Covid-19.
    b. This e-learning model should start or begin with creative learning such as videos that are used as a practical learning guide in a hospital. Considering that nursing students spend more time in practicum than theoretical activities.
    c. Lecturers should prepare good and varied learning materials to enrich students' knowledge. So that students have a lot of theories as a provision for the practicum learning.
    d. If blended learning is applied during practicum activities, it is only limited to the introduction of actions. As a result of the practicum, students make a video of the implementation according to the SOP and send it back to the Practicum Lecturer to be reassessed by the lecturer, whether it is in accordance with the SOP or not.
    e. Blended Learning Activities for nursing students must pay attention to the Covid-19 Health Protocol which intends to prevent its spread and transmission.

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Author's Curriculum Vitae and Photos

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