The Perspectives of Elder Learners Needs' of E-Learning Curriculum in Taiwan

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Abstract: With the growing of aging society, the e-Learning curriculum of adult education was getting more attention. This research collected three colleges which were related health field and use content analysis method to clarify the materials of e-Learning curriculum for older learners with six dimensions, such as "family and human relations", "health caring", "leisure and entertainment", "society and politics", "retirement and adaptation" and "self-fulfillment and essence of life". The main finding was that the most type course nowadays was "certificate of special field" , after that were "leisure and entertainment", "retirement and adaptation", "health caring" and "self-fulfillment and essence of life". The research suggested it should be focus on the learning needs of older adult that can contribute the educational development, just like the health care course.

Keywords: older learner, learning needs, e-learning

1. Research Background

Older age's society is progressing in Taiwan. Educational policy should focus on older adults' needs in order to help the society turn into the "successful aging" [1]. [2] brought up an idea when elder's society comes; it is challenge that we can have more opportunities on refresher course. The challenge part is educational environment and resources need to have consistent factor. Adults who enrolled refresher course will need the career development, and it is will satisfy adults' life learning's needs. Learning should promote learners to learn for earning, and it can motivate society and economic become more in sustainable development [3]. Elder society should promote the strategy to develop elders. Most of elder have good health, they retired from their job, and they can go ahead to another new job and career [4]. Because of the tendency of lack of children and elder's population growing, the private universities and colleges have problem to enroll students to schools. If we can provide the college's resources to community's members, and open elder's education, it will become the schools' characteristic.

2. Literature Review

2.1. Characteristic of elders' learning

WHO define elder is above 60 years old. Ministry of Interior in Taiwan define elder is above 65 years old. Reference [5] provide adults educational theory, which include (1) adults is a grown up individual, who can make their own decision, (2) adults' experiences become the most important resources of learning, (3) Adults will use their role in society to learn, (4) Adults tend to learn thing which can use immediately, and it can solve their problem. [6] define elder's learning characteristic have following five factors: (1) individual will find their own learning time, place, and learning purpose, (2) individual will decide their own learning

ways and content, (3) individual will find learning resources, (4) individual need to adjust their mind, to provide the appropriate situation for learning, (5) we can ask for environment which provide elder's needs. According to the statement above, we know that adults will need many perspective in learning, and we should focus on learning is for problem-solving. Therefore, the learning consequences should be clear, and the environment should be focus on adults' needs.

2.2. The categories and items

According to [1]'s paper, we category our study into six level.

Table. 1: Six levels for category

Categories	Items
Family and interpersonal relationship	The family safety's knowledge, the grandparent and grandchild relationship, the mothers and daughters-in-law relationship, new friendship, and dealing interpersonal question
Keeping in good health care	Recognizes disease and the prevention, the health care, the keeping in good health diet, the medicine knowledge, and aspects on medication safety.
Leisure and entertainment	The sport, the folk custom technique, the vocational tours, the music, the dance, the natural sciences, and others.
Social politics	Understands the domestic and foreign political circumstance, the domestic and foreign social development, the voting, and aspect and so on time's tendency for learning demands
Retired plan and adaptation	Volunteer , elder's life value, language further education, and death education
Self-realization and life significance	Retired profession plan, retired mind adjustment, re-employment skill counselling, elder's finance plan, and elder's benefit and service resources

3. Research Design and Analysis

The research found three similar technology colleges and universities to do the analysis and compare, which include Ching Kuo Institute of Management and Health, National Taipei University of Nursing and Health Science, Cardinal Tien College of Healthcare and Management. The study followed the period from January to June in 2011. We use content analysis to analysis e-Learning curriculum as text materials based.

Based on the analysis construction and the research implementation, the three technology colleges' and universities' e-Learning education curriculum to 88 curriculum, elaborated that it with the elder's learning demand, the following are the elder's learning demand in six categories.

Table. 2: Curriculum category analysis

Categories	Numbers of curriculums	Percentage
Family and interpersonal Relationship	0	0%
Keeping in good health care	7	7.95%
Leisure and entertainment	29	32.95%
Social politics	0	0%
Retired plan and adaptation	15	17.04%
Self-realization and life Significance	3	3.41%
Others(Child curriculum, other specialized cards according to curriculum)	34	38.64%
Total	88	100%

According to the table above, it appears that others show the most, and next is Leisure and entertainment, Retired plan and adaptation, Keeping in good health care, Self-realization and life significance. The Family and interpersonal relationship and Social politics appear zero.

4. Conclusion

4.1. Various schools attribute to open many professional skill curricula

The research demonstrated that various schools e-Learning education curriculum still take the specialized certificate as a main focus, each school offer many courses for professional field curriculum. These courses can fit the elder's demand, and help elder's to learn the skills in their career. These certificates and curriculum need to combine with learning needs. The adult learner is very usually practical, they want the harvest which some may see [8]. Much minor population, they need help for their occupation. Usually, male has the interest regarding the work training, the female interest in their presentation and general knowledge. The superiority adult pointed out they enjoy the reward system, they concern about the social interaction, and that is the main reason for participation.

4.2. The suggestion plan of the related curriculum based on the elder's learning demand

Some subject incessancy the appearance, such as the religion, the health, the financial affairs, the history or the contemporary event and the travelling [9]. The skill related education is like art and the handicraft, the gardening was very often to be mention. Many curriculums may meet elder's needs, if the elder can have the whole development, the curriculum plan will need to follow the six categories, which can let elders to have the full choice opportunity, and can penetrate the e-Learning curriculum, lets the elders have the healthy learning curriculum.

4.3. Health related colleges and universities for elder's learning demand

Elders should focus on keeping in good health care and family interpersonal relationship, and others, such as leisure and entertainment, social politics, and retired plan and adaptation should be the next.

5. Acknowledgements

6. References

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