

Code of Ethics of Teaching-Learning for an e-Learning System

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ABSTRACT

The acceptance of Internet and computers in everyday life is a fact that defines information and communications technology ICT rising in this world of twenty-first century. New tools and technologies are very effective for educational organizations and individuals. The transformation of traditional system to digital system has made the life easier, on the other hand as catalyst of catastrophe also increased. Every technology has two faces; the technology can be adopted for the welfare of the community or it can be used for destroying the reputation of the community. These new tools and technologies can be used in good or bad way depending on the user's perspective. In order to guard a system against the negative vulnerable/illegal effect, there is a need to analysis the catastrophic tendencies of computing for the system that are currently being used. The main objective of this research is to study the code of ethics of teaching and learning for an e-learning system employed at various universities of Saudi Arabia. The study is done by using two questionnaire surveys. The results of this research shows that services offered by e-learning System need to be advanced and also seeks teachers and students to be aware about ethics and its future consequences.

Keywords

Ethics; e-learning; information and communications technology (ICT)

1. INTRODUCTION

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In today's world Information and Communications Technology (ICT) is adopted by all education organizations around the world. It has become the bases for all organization who want to overcome the milestone for success. Apart from achieving a success, ICT assists organizations in right decision making and supports them in their business competency. Organizations around the globe has accepted and get involved in the acceptance of IT computing and its resources in order to leverage their mission, goals and objectives successfully [1]. IT departments are not just service provider, also they are the strategic partners and hence it is a point of major concern for IT services in the field of research, defense and educational development.

The rapid changing era of technology has changed everything around us. Every aspect of life gets affected by this technology changing environment. Teaching-learning has also taken the support of ICT to achieve educational goals and offers an appropriate way to increase the knowledge sharing, creating educational objects and distribution of knowledge contents among its learners. E-learning environment provides

anytime, anywhere easy access for knowledge sharing with minimum cost. Up to some extent e-learning has replaced the traditional way of teaching that involve face-to-face learning. It also removes a feeling of discrimination between teachers and students and also minimize the hurdle of keeping records in a convenient and secure way. In traditional teaching-learning environment teacher cannot explain each steps of problem solving as it use face-face teaching-learning methodology and had time limitations. E-learning system is an integrated software that ease the process of teaching-learning by hiding face-to-face student's and teacher's interactions, and thus immediate action on inappropriate and unethical behaviour can't be achieved.

Over the past few years an ICT industry become increasingly globalized, the use of codes of ethics is likely to become more common as international organizations look for others who share similar moral values upon which to build strong relationships and therefore the ethics become the subject of interest in this age of globalization [3]. Ethics is not the subject that can be addressed by any field of science, still it creates a zone in which can quantify the actions done by professional around us. Almost all the activities undertaken in this era of modern society is controlled by some elements of computing devices. Therefore, system development and deployment as well as the usage of computing resources in an organization are matters of concerns with respect to ethical issues and must be taken seriously into consideration. One major reason for this, is the increased possibility for software and hardware products of computing to be used or misused for destruction. Use of codes of ethics plays an important role in sustaining the financial stability and growth of an organization. All ethical principles try to enhance peace, success and happiness for human being if followed otherwise lead to the disaster for them.

The last decades have brought e-learning system as an ideal system for teaching-learning activities. E-learning system provides better possibilities for security, customization and improved services for teachers and learners. Understanding the factors that influence user acceptance of this aspect of current development is vital for sophisticated user with respect to ethical action and reaction, where knowing the user ethical and intentional behavior to use e-learning system should be the key element in any decision-making process [4]. Internet and easily available electronic media access has increased the level of cheating in education institutions. It is impractical to say that any e-learning system is immune in this age of advance technology and internet. Dishonesty and fraud in academic institutions have risen because of students and teacher's access for huge amounts of information available online and this improper use of technology had challenged the moral values and standards in higher education.

This paper justifies the need for awareness of ethics to teachers and students who are using an e-learning system for

teaching-learning process. It analyzes and points out the issues of ethical misconduct in an e-learning system.

This research paper is divided into four sections excluding the introduction section. II section discusses about the past research study. Research methodology is revealed in section III. Section IV show the result. Conclusion is discussed in section V.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

In today's world of modern technology and competitive markets, the reputation of any organization or individual depends on their behaviour. The reputation is measured by the honesty that the organization or individual hold in. In last few years' researchers and business partners got attracted by the field of ethics. Ethics are the moral standards or a guide to make decisions about what is right and what is wrong. The views for ethics are not constant and change depending on the environment of the surrounding. The risk of negative image is reduced to minimal if an organization follows the ethical standards and it also helps in running a sustainable business. There are various e-learning systems available in market today and each e-learning system provides its security rules, laws and standards that need to be taken into consideration while using them. But teachers and learners do not care about these ethical rules and regulation and finally make a cause to the failure of such e-learning tools in their organization. Even if it is not completely failed, it does not provide the quality standard education to their learners. It is the duty of teachers and students to stand up and take accountability for accepting the standards and principles of ethics in the process of teaching and learning using e-learning system.

Several researchers presented their views about ethics of teaching-learning for an e-learning system. The section reveals the previous study on ethics of teaching-learning in an e-learning environment. Khader [2012] have done a qualitative and quantitative study for the ethical issues regarding students for computer science and information system program. A questionnaire was used for the quantitative method while for qualitative assessment, interviews were done. Khader concluded that the students are not aware about the laws of ethics for copyright and Intellectual Property rights (IPR). However, the female students have more awareness than male students concerning the ethical laws, principles and standards and also believed that advance technology and human are main role player for the ethical issues related to the computer. The awareness of code of ethics and written policy for using computing resources in an educational institute must be promoted among students and teachers [5].

Peter [2012] have discussed the need to include training courses on ethical issues in computing discipline in order to diminish the negative inclinations of computing adopted by human. The paper also focuses on the need to advance the teaching of ethics for the students of computing curriculum in order to cater the needs of demanding world and also to educate the ethics to students while sustaining the grip on new ethical issues related to computing discipline [6]. Takashi [2014] produces four video clips for teaching information ethics to university students. It was shown that first three video clips were very effective for improving the knowledge of students. The last fourth clip were designed with the intentions of improving the ethics among students and teachers [2].

Paulo Gama [2013] analyze the different types of fraud in Portuguese Higher education system. Engineering students

[7]. Women were more aware about academic fraud and recognize it as a more recurrent phenomenon than men. The study suggests that the moral behaviour of students in academic environment is inappropriate because of the ignorance of rules made by educational institutions. Paulo also suggest that the educational intuitions leads to frauds in order to fulfill their commitment and success.

Bokhari [2011] has proposed the concept of multi agents for improving the interactivity and personalization of e-learning system. A. K. Mohammed [2014] has proposed a frame work based on problem solving places to achieve better learning outcome in an e-learning system. The integration of above mentioned perspectives [8, 9] in an e-learning environment may contribute positively to enhance the teaching learning methodology and studying the ethical aspect of such e-learning systems will create an awareness in learning community for its better acceptance.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Teachers and students are the target audience for this research study. Two different questionnaire are prepared each for teachers and students and are distributed to collect their feedback about the ethical issues faced in the process of teaching-learning. E-learning system provides teaching-learning environment for teachers and learners when they are at far distance and has no physical interaction with each other. Publishing the lectures notes on e-learning system may not be just enough for transmitting the knowledge to its learners. Teacher and learner must have trustworthy communication between them. Reliable network infrastructure is another barrier in the adoption of e-learning system. The code of ethics in teaching-learning must be known to its stakeholders so that they can prepare themselves from these academic integrity issues. There is a fraud between teacher and learners that arise ethical issues between teachers and learners and the level of this fraud does not stop here, it is directly proportional to the distance between teacher and learner. The security of the e-learning system effects the rating of its adoption by teachers and learners. The teachers and students must have an awareness of illegal use of electronic resources like e-books, e-library, search engine, e-dictionaries, email etc. Ethical questions like Copy right issues, copying assignments from other students, uploading unauthorized documents, uploading unnecessary number of documents are discussed in the below mentioned questionnaires.

Table 1. Faculty Questionnaire

Faculty Questionnaire	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
Are you aware about the ethics of e-learning					
Did you receive any training course for ethics in e-learning					
Do you consider student's reading of e-learning notes as a criteria for grading					
Do you use e-learning for imparting knowledge to					

students or just for winning award					
Teaching material for the course was available online before starting the class					
Have you uploaded copy righted materials in e-learning system at any occasion					
Do you grade the students fairly for each and every assignment submitted by them					
Do you respond the queries of student in an efficient manner					
Was the time limit was sufficient for online exam					
How regularly you were present in online room as per the announcement					
Do you follow the grading policy as announced in the beginning of the course					
There was enough cooperation for IT related issues					
Have you shared your login credentials to someone who respond the student's discussion forum on behalf of you					
Were you available in class while taking exam using e-learning system					
Student's assignment plagiarism was checked regularly					
Announcement of events for students were notified on e-learning system before the starting of the event					
Fair grading was given to each group members for collective work					
Exam's question were same as the topic discussed in the online discussion room or forums					

Do you follow the quality assurance process to improve quality of teaching in ethical aspects					
A good knowledge of computer is possess by your					

Table 2. Student Questionnaire

Student Questionnaire	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
Solutions for the assignment from the last semester was copied					
Did you submitted the assignments on time					
Do you study the materials provided by the instructor through e-learning system on regular basis					
Do you work on individual assignment without anyone's help					
Do you give proper reference when you use others work or take help from internet					
Do you take tuition or assistance for solving your assignment					
Online exam were taken honestly means not used internet for getting the correct answer or take help from someone					
Were you present in online room during the entire class session					
Have you used any pirated software to complete your assignment					
Have you upload any plagiarized material in e-learning system					
Someone else write online					

exam on behalf of you					
Have you shared the learning materials provided from your instructor to any friend from outside the university					
Have you share your homework with other student					
Technical training for students was convened about how to use e-learning system keeping in mind the ethical aspects of teaching and learning					
Security of e-learning system limits you to accomplish any objective					
Criticize the fraud committed by students for e-learning system					
Group project work load was justified or not					
A good knowledge of computer is possess by you					

4. RESULT

A sample of 120 students and 40 teachers was collected using online questionnaires. 12 students from each level from level 1 to level 10, was selected randomly including male and female. The study reveals that the students who have knowledge of computing were better followers of ethics in comparison to the students who were coming from background other than computer. Students and teachers having the knowledge of computer shows an average of 85.83% admirer of ethics. And it was observed that the first year students lacked the knowledge about ethical issues pertaining to e-learning system. The percentage of ethics follower in female students and teachers was 87.08% which was higher than the male students and teachers having the value 84.58%.

Table 3. Information of respondents

Respondents		Knowledge of Computer	Admirers of ethics
Faculty=40	Male	Yes	34
		No	6
	Female	Yes	35

		No	5
Student=120	Male	Yes	101
		No	19
	Female	Yes	104
		No	16

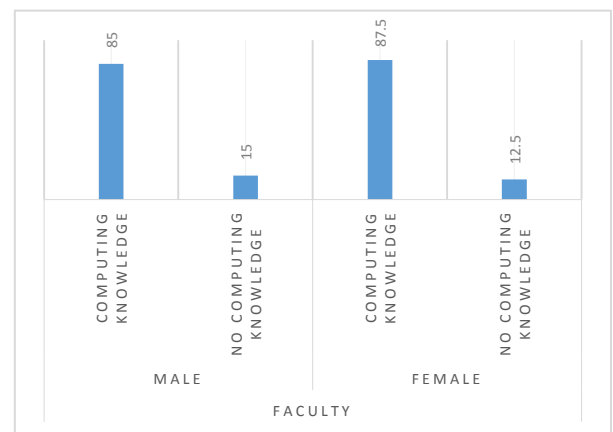


Fig 1: Comparative Graph for admirers (faculty) of ethics

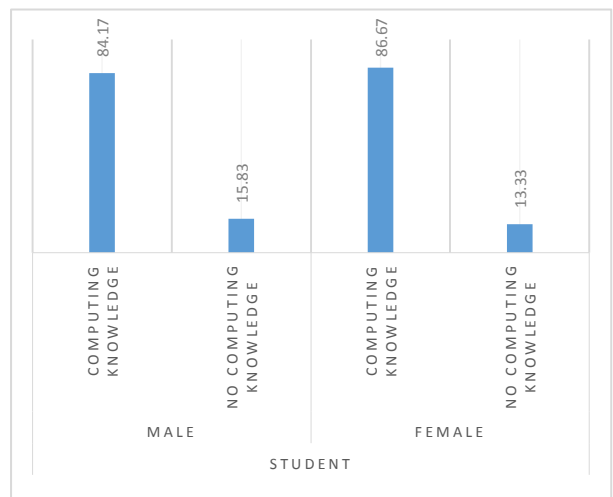


Fig 2: Comparative Graph for admirers (Student) of ethics

5. CONCLUSION

E-learning technology is advancing, the problem related to ethical issues also resurfaced. With the rapid changes in e-learning education, there is a need to improve the standards of the quality in e-learning. The educational institutions need to consider the issues of ethical aspects that must be taken into consideration before the start of the e-learning course. To improve e-learning education, a way to adopt rules, policy and standard must be enforced around the globe. Technical

training for students for connecting to cyber discussions board and online rooms is the requirement of the current era. An attention must be given concerning unethical behaviour of teachers and learners for an e-learning environment. Also an awareness for ethical standards among teachers and students to meet the changing e-learning environment challenges is required.

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