

Use of Internet Sources to Enhance Teaching at a Faculty of Education

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The percentage of internet using community is rapidly increasing in the world. So, it is very important to use the internet and internet resources for enhancing the teaching-learning process at the university level. As the university teaching staff who are teaching pedagogical sciences, using internet in conducting their teaching session will be very important. Therefore, it was investigated the nature of using the internet for enhancing teaching by the academic staff members of the Faculty of Education at a University. Convergent parallel mixed methods were used in this study. Participants were the academic staff members of a Faculty of Education, mainly observations, interviews, and document survey were used for data collection. Thematic analysis and descriptive statistical tools were used in this study. Participants were selected by using purposive sampling technique. It was revealed that even though some classrooms were equipped with multimedia and Wi-Fi facility the majority of teaching staff (60%) did not use internet to conduct their teaching sessions, and most of them used a whiteboard and note reading technique throughout their sessions. During the interview sessions, it was discovered that the majority of the teachers did have some IT knowledge, however, they do not like to take much time for the preparation of the lesson by using internet sources. Some of them (30%) used a power point presentation to explain their lessons. Some of the teachers (30%) did not have an average knowledge and experience in using IT for teaching. They have an idea that the using the internet does not seriously affect for enhancing the quality of delivering lessons. However, the majority's (60%) perception is different from them. They indicated that though they like to use internet sources, the management and university authority do not provide the required support, facilities and encouragement for them to deliver their lessons using the internet sources. Although the young teaching staff uses the internet, the most senior members did not show much interest to use such technology in their teaching. It was revealed that the lack of knowledge and poor enthusiasm of them directly affect that situation in their teaching. The negative influence of the faculty management on the use of online technologies was also highlighted. However, this faculty did not have an online learning management system or online teaching platform though they are training and educating school teachers on how to teach by using new technology and educational technology. It was discovered that there was no at least one smart board/ interactive whiteboard in the premises or in the classrooms of this Faculty. It is recommended that to make this teaching staff aware with IT and internet-based teaching strategies, the classrooms should be equipped with new information technological instruments.

Key words: *Internet, Internet sources, Internet-based teaching strategies, Information technology*