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#### **ABSTRACT**

In this current scenario where everyone is busy in their Schedule, they often don't get time for their relatives, friends and family. But thanks to the technology that it helps to cut the distance between our relatives. Mobile phones have become a crucial part of our daily life nowadays. Everyone has a personal cell phone of their own. Mobile phones have been developing very fast since 1995. There are number of applications available in the market which people use according to their preference, WhatsApp application is one of them, an application which not only has function of chatting but also other very convenient functions. WhatsApp get famous worldwide with no age boundaries.

**Keywords:** WhatsApp, Education.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The use of mobile learning activities in learning and teaching online course is an innovative educational technology in higher education. The Internet holds a vast array of information. The educational resources delivered on web pages are often very informative and useful for online students in nearly every topic of study. The Internet is useful in helping students both construct and share their knowledge. The use of Internet technology by online learning communities may provide mobile learning resources in synchronous or asynchronous modes.

#### **E-LEARNING**

E-learning aims to deliver instruction to students not present in the classroom. It provides access to learning resources when the instructor and students are separated by time, distance or both. E-learning is considered to be a new concept covering a variety of applications, learning processes and learning methods. It includes a variety of technological applications, processes, audio and video.

The e-learning process designed and developed by online instructors is the node of the e-learning system. A well-structured learning environment must facilitate the user in connecting different tools to build, share and improve his/her level of knowledge with a variety of learning models.

### **WHATSAPP INSTANT MESSAGING**

WhatsApp is a free Smartphone application that is available on iPhone, Nokia, Blackberry, and Windows Smartphone and gives users the possibility to send text messages, voice clips, photos, videos, locations and contacts.

This all can be done in a one-on-one conversation as well as in a group conversation, in which users can talk to up to 50 people at the same time. To stay in touch via the WhatsApp application, people need each other's numbers and must have downloaded the app on their Smartphone.

WhatsApp instant messaging is a cross-platform Smartphone messenger that employs users' existing Internet data plan to help them network socially in real time. WhatsApp provides online users with the ability to send and receive a variety of media, such as images, videos and audio media messages.

Whatsapp is one of the changes in technology that is commonly used on specific mobile phones and computers. Since the Smartphones became popular, many messaging services were launched but WhatsApp has become very popular among them. WhatsApp is a Smartphone application for instant messaging. Lately the application's popularity has risen. One of the unique features of the application is its ability to enhance communication within a group.

WhatsApp is a Smartphone application that operates on nearly all current types of devices and operating systems. The application has been on the market since 2010; the declared purpose of the developers was to replace the existing SMS platform for a system that is free of charge in an ad-free environment.

As a means of sending and receiving messages to and from individuals or groups, WhatsApp includes a variety of functions, such as text messages, attached images, audio files, video files, and links to web addresses. Over the last two years, the application has become very popular, gaining over 350 million.

The WhatsApp platform has the following collaborative features.

- Provide online students with the ability to exchange text messages, images, videos, and voice notes to their social network or group and contacts.
- Provide students or instructors with the ability to create a group (social network group) that supports the social interactions of up to 11 group members. Members can engage in discussion forums.
- WhatsApp Messenger provides the ability for students to send messages without limits. The application uses a 3G/EDGE Internet data plan or Wi-Fi to ensure continuous data transmissions across the WhatsApp mobile system.
- Students using WhatsApp through a variety of mobile devices, such as smartphones, Galaxy tablets, and so on can message one another through texts, images, videos, and so on.

## **EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS OF WHATSAPP**

**Students at universities and major institutions of higher education use mobile communication based text messaging and instant messaging. Texting is based on short messages service (SMS) between students through mobile devices. Instant messaging is based on sending brief, typed messages over the Internet between two work stations or computers. Students use both texting and instant messaging in higher education.**

**Furthermore, the majority of the institutions of higher learning are willing to use both text and instant messaging for educational purposes.**

**The use of instant messaging for educational purposes, suggests that popularity and support for mobile devices within the student population is great and that the majority of students at universities benefit from texting through mobile learning devices. The teachers are able to post small assignments and ask students to complete them by using one of the possibilities WhatsApp offers. WhatsApp was adopted for an information technology course at all universities with a view to heighten lecturer–student and peer-based participation, and enhance pedagogical delivery and inclusive learning informal (lectures) and informal spaces.**

**WhatsApp-mediated learning’s support for multiple accesses to learning resources impacted students’ ability to engage with peers and the tutor synchronously. Smartphone’ personalization and adaptation to different contexts ensured persistent supply of texts, information and learning resources, which enabled networked learning and multiple peer-based feedback. The informal, convenient context for instantaneous sharing of vital academic information activated by the “porting” of learning resources across different spaces extended learning times and augmented traditional consultation spaces.**

**WhatsApp’s affordances for asynchronous communication also directly impacted student participation. The retrievable of messages posted when students were offline, outside network coverage or when their devices were switched off implied that they could participate any time irrespective of context. Multiple interaction modes and diverse temporal times widened opportunities for student involvement without missing conversation flows.**

**Students believed that WhatsApp discussion forums allowed them to reflect “deeply” on questions and queries before giving their opinions.**

**This is potentially attributable to forums’ asynchronous nature that mitigated the pressure of instant, spontaneous responses immanent in lecture interactions.**

**The student-tutor dialogic interactions involved the sharing of experiences, social practices and communicative repertoires, thus fostering a community of practice and learner-centered teaching approaches.**

**For students, transformative learning played out in their critical engagement with learning resources. Students are suggesting WhatsApp’s forums’ potential to foster “bridging spaces”-the space for connect differences linked to interactants’ interests, skills and capabilities.**

There are two benefits of Whatsapp for distance learning: mobile learning and context free access to learning resources. Student appropriation of WhatsApp-enabled phones for lecturer–student and peer based consultations leveraged their participation as they redressed poor connectivity via institutional networks. Device portability coupled with affordances for anywhere anytime access to information and learning resources redressed the constraints distance, space and temporal times in access to resources.

### **ONLINE DISCUSSIONS IN A COLLABORATIVE LEARNING APPROACH**

Online learning environment, such as an e-learning platform, mobile learning system, and so on, were related first to the development of inequities arising from dominant cultural values embodied in learning resources and methods and second to the potential online social interactions arising from cultural difference. Discussion forums exist in a variety of distance learning platforms, such as e-learning platforms (Moodle, Blackboard, e-tutor, etc.) or mobile platforms (WhatsApp, etc.). These forums provide online students opportunities to collaborate and cooperate together to construct knowledge.

Online learning suggests that discussion forums promote the creation and development of learning communities and support the learning process. Synchronous and asynchronous communication between students promotes learning effectiveness. The online discussion integrated in mobile devices provides opportunities for students to interact socially with their instructor to facilitate learning and solve learning difficulties.

### **CONCLUSION**

Educating adults of the Next Generation will continue to produce challenges for teachers. The challenges should be viewed as opportunities to learn and to help students move forward in a constantly changing society. Educators should themselves embrace technology, provide active learning, change and develop new methodologies for motivating and training Next Generation students.

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