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VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT TO ENHANCE CONTEXTUAL LEARNING IN MALAYSIAN SECONDARY SCHOOLS: OPPORTUNITY AND CHALLENGES

Latifah bt Abd Raub, Mohammad Yusof Arshad*, Nurbiha A. Shukor and Mohd Shafie Rosli

Department of Educational Sciences, Mathematics and Creative Multimedia, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Johor Bahru, MALAYSIA.

(E-mail: cipot23@gmail.com, p-yusof@utm.my, nurbiha@utm.my, shafierosli@utm.my)

INTRODUCTION

One of the important features in developing science curriculum in Malaysia now, is the emphasis on the education system that allows students to master higher order thinking skills (HOTS). The success of HOTS depends upon an individual's ability to apply, reorganize, and elaborate knowledge in the context of the thinking skills. Hence, the contextual learning is suitable approach to develop HOTS, which enables students to build their knowledge in the context of their minds, then later makes use of linkages and applies it to their real life. However, it was found that teachers in Malaysia are lack of interest to apply contextual learning approach in their classroom. As technology evolves, computer-supported has the potential to be used as an effective tool to develop HOTS. Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) has been developed as a potent tool to support the process of teaching and learning.

MAIN RESULTS

The presence of VLE makes it possible for integration of multiple perspective information through constructive discussion via its online forums and active learning pedagogical overlay. Yet, only handful of study has been conducted probing into the effectiveness of contextual learning when supported by VLE. Thus, lack of research in this matter leaving some space for further study and improvement. The aims of this conceptual paper are to explore the potential opportunities as well as challenges of VLE to enhance the contextual based learning in Malaysia secondary school. The author is currently researching on the implementation of VLE to enhance the contextual learning in Malaysian Secondary School.

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