

Institution Logo



Title of the Product/Project

SOuL



PRODUCT
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ABSTRACT

Adult learners are those who engaged in educational activity voluntarily to acquire the knowledge, information, and skills necessary to succeed in the workforce, learn basic skills, earn credentials, or otherwise enrich their lives. They are different from ordinary college students as they have more responsibilities to shoulder, especially for those who already have their own family to support. Hence, they need a specific PdP criteria to suit their challenging learning environment via ODL. SOuL is therefore developed to manifest the smart ODL to the adult learners. This conceptual model is derived from a quantitative research conducted among the adult learners to verify the key essential criteria needed for their ODL learning. Based on six criteria of ODL adult learning i.e. learning spirit, learning design, learning style, learning process, learning climate, and learning support, the empirical findings verify the importance of all the criteria to adult learners.

Keywords: Adult learners; Digitalization; Online Distance Learning (ODL)

INTRODUCTION

Adult learners differ from typical college students in a number of ways; from a psychological, cognitive, and affective perspective. The majority of adult learners are pursuing studies on their own time, and they face additional hurdles because they already have jobs and families to care for. Lack of time, family commitments, course schedule and location, and expenses are among the challenges that adult learners face. Some of them even work multiple jobs to support their families, especially in today's difficult economic climate. Hence, having the online distance learning (ODL) is a blessing to the adult learners as this would facilitate them in many ways. Nevertheless, due to the nature and challenges that they face, the ways and approach for the adult learners to learn and to be taught should be different from that of the ordinary college students. Hence, a specific approach in PdP to adult learners is necessary to suit their need especially during the challenging learning environment of today.

METHODOLOGY

The study employed a quantitative research method through survey. Questionnaire has been used as the instruments to collect primary data from the respondents. Population and samples of the study are those adult learners who take various degree programs at several higher education institutions in the country. Using online distribution method, data were collected and analysed using mean analysis. The study indicated that all the six criteria of smart ODL adult learning are necessary and important for adult learners to have a better learning experience.

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION/ INNOVATION IN BRIEF

SOuL, as an acronym for **Smart ODL to Adult Learners**, is developed as an adaptation to the new norms in teaching and learning (PdP). The model is an outcome of a quantitative research by way of survey to adult students who are still studying in higher education institutions in the country. SOuL is developed based on five dimensions of PdP to adult learners comprising of learning design, learning style, learning process, learning climate, and learning support. As an innovation, the sixth dimension of SOuL i.e learning spirit is added as the study found it to be very essential as a driving force for an individual adult learner to be persistent and persevere in continuing his or her study, particularly during the stressful pandemic environment.

PRODUCT PICTURE



“LEADING INNOVATION”

SIGNIFICANCES

The **SOuL** model can benefit the community as it promotes the government's goal of enhancing the culture of lifelong learning among the people. The model is also aligned with the Ministry of Higher Education's (MOHE) digitalisation agenda. In addition, **SOuL** could assist instructors and adult students in adapting to the problems that lie ahead.

NOVELTY/ ORIGINALITY

SOuL is unique as the spiritual aspect of learning is added to the existing five dimensions of adult learning criteria in the literature.

AWARDS :: PUBLICATION :: PATTERNS

Publication:

PM Siti Khadijah et al. (2021). Learning Criteria For Adult Learners via ODL. International Journal of Asia Pacific Studies: IJAPS (Upcoming)

Patern:

Smart ODL For Adults Learners (SOuL), 2021 (Upcoming)

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