Research on E-Learning Preference of Minority Students in Colleges and Universities

Zhong ZHENG¹,a, Juan SHI²,b,*, Da-Hai XING²,c,*

¹School of Journalism and Communication, South China University of Technology, Guangzhou, Guangdong, China
²Teaching Affairs Office, South China University of Technology, Guangzhou, Guangdong, China

¹ironwill80@163.com, bshijuan@scut.edu.cn, cxdh@scut.edu.cn

*Corresponding author

Keywords: Minority, E-Learning, Learning Preference.

Abstract. Through the literature review and content analysis, this paper systematically reviews the current situation of Minority College Students' E-learning (Electronic Learning), and preliminarily studies the characteristics, strategies, preferences and so on. Based on the questionnaire survey and interview, we analyzed the Minority College Students' e-learning tools and common learning resources, learning methods and learning environment, and carry out the case study, get a deeper understanding of Minority College Students' e-learning strategies and preferences. The study found that, due to the differences in network coverage and usage lead to the lag in the e-learning of minority college students. Likewise, the differences form their preferences in the ways of learning objectively, and then influence the performance of e-learning.

Introduction

Due to the regional differences in economic development, the network penetration rate and utilization rate in remote poverty-stricken areas are still very low, which includes a large part of our minority inhabited areas. In this kind of network application background, we found that netizens of minority student are still at a disadvantage in the e-learning network model of social structure, due to the influence of their national culture and growth conditions. Its performances are entertainment time is far more than learning time, not accustomed to e-learning and poor performance, e-learning channels single and so on. Therefore, its e-learning efforts and strength urgent need to upgrade. This paper summarizes the digitalization of Minority College Student's learning preferences, in order to provide reference for the development of the network of higher education in the minority areas, to establish and perfect the social education resources in minority areas and the fair and reasonable distribution of the minority students.

Research on E-learning of Minority College Students

Focusing on the theme of "minority college students' e-learning", download the relevant research literature by CNKI (China National Knowledge Infrastructure), Duxiu and Wan Fang Database, understand the e-learning of minority nationalities in Colleges and universities comprehensively.

In ordinary colleges and universities, minority students are a special group. Their proportion is not large but has obvious differences with Han students in language and culture, living habits, religious beliefs and so on. In the survey of minority network learning, users have a certain preference for minority languages and text websites. Internet users more believe in government websites, followed by portals and news sites when they use network information. In terms of information selection, display more free download network information and other useful learning materials and software, in addition to access to news and current information. Downloading or listening to music is an important part of Internet access for ethnic minorities in terms of network learning preferences, then searching the needed information, browsing news, chatting, downloading...
free information, enjoying the video programs, e-mail, online games etc. (Journal of Kashgar Teachers College)

E-learning has not been widely popularized in some minority areas and people's lack of understanding of it. However, minority in the e-learning is more inclined to the protection and development of their national language and language in the discussion and application. (Application of Digitalization in Ethnic Minorities) The cultivation and research of vertical and horizontal e-learning on minority network knowledge and innovation ability. Minorities are more inclined to the development of language and music so as to make themselves more aware of foreign culture, customs and other aspects. (Exploration and Thinking - Vertical and Horizontal E-learning)

Survey on Minority College Students' E-learning Preference

The survey is mainly faced with ethnic minority college students, and the design of the questionnaire by minority students and Han students. The number of questions is 33. It involves many aspects, including participants' basic information statistics, investigations on the basic ability of carrying out e-learning, survey of participants' growth and learning place, preference for using network, views on e-learning, learning performance and so on. The questionnaire uses five levels of options in terms of evaluative response options which are "very not", "no", "general", "good", "very good". On the way of answering questions, we use the multi-select mode. It accords with the diversity of network application and the universality of user using groups. On the score type question, the answer is 5 points. Meanwhile, the objective and subjective problems combine to reflect the situation of participants using e-learning more truly and comprehensively. It can increase the reliability of the questionnaire results in this study. Questionnaires were used to publish on Questionnaire Stars. Then we invited participants from different ethnic groups to fill in questionnaires. And the results were analyzed in detail after the questionnaire was collected.

Data and Analysis

Questionnaire Results

Questionnaire results show that the respondents in the gender and grade proportion distribute evenly. Respondents are from different nationalities. There are 2 Buyi people, 12 Tibetans, 13 Tujia people, 2 Dai people, 3 Chuanqing people, 1 She people, 1 Deng people, 4 Korean people, 36 Kazak, 11 Hui people, 10 Mongolian, 12 Miao people, 23 people of Uygur, Uzbek Buick 1 people, 2 people of Zhuang, 1 Yi people, 1 Li people, 10 Han people, a total of 145 people. The location distribution mainly comes from Southern China, northwest and southwest, among which the northwest area is the largest (32.69%). 1/3 of the respondents studied in the ethnic areas before going to university and the economy of region is relatively developed. People with 1/3 go to school in the relatively backward ethnic areas before going to College. Most of the rest goes to school in other places, such as Tibet and Xinjiang classes due to the government aid programs.

Survey shows that 78.85% of respondents often use the net in the dormitory since the university. On the network speed and stability satisfaction evaluation, the "general" option ratio is 63.46% and 67.31%. For the basic situation about "e-learning" to understand and use, according to the survey results: the number of contacts of e-learning accounted for 60.87% before the university, the contact method for "teacher recommendation and provide resources" accounted for 58.93%, 33.93% people found by themselves. On the reason for not contact e-learning, 47.22% of the choice is "poor self-control". About the atmosphere of e-learning, 44.75% of people think the atmosphere is strong. In the question "university whether to use e-learning actively or not", only 25% of people in regular use, and 38.46% said that they did not use the learning method actively because of "not used to", 30.43% of people in the University began to use e-learning because of the support of hardware, of which 65.22% of people usually use the platform for Netease Open Class. 56.3% of people often use resources as "various APP", while 70.65% of users invest in e-learning is based on demand, in other words, is not timing. About the purpose of e-learning, 80.77% of people used to search for
information, and 5.77% of people used to engage in scientific research, most of the remaining people are used to national language or other language learning. In the question "e-learning led to improvement of capacity", 64.75% of people believe that "enhance the ability to access and use of resources". 76.92% of people think it is necessary to improve internet access restrictions and slow speed problems. Of the reasons for the negative attitude to e-learning, 66.67% of people think "there is no help".

Network Usage

In the survey of minority college students in different regions, we can find that the time of use the network is close relatively, about 6 to 10 years, a small number of people is more than 15 years. In other words, almost all of the respondents have a skilled grasp to computer before into the university, but the age of contact network concentrated in the junior high school stage basically. About the use of network time survey shows that students use Internet time in 1 hour to 12 hours, with an average time of about 6 hours. Of course, the time here does not refer to the pure use of computers, but the data is still a relatively large number, that is, users have enough time to engage in a variety of online activities.

A survey of prefer place to use the Internet shows that about 4/5 of people choose to surf the Internet in their dorms. Another extreme situation is the proportion of using computers in libraries is about zero. This statistics about the place of use the Internet can reflect the independence and "hidden" of minority college students, that can be understood as their own online activities don't want to be known to others. This may be trapped in most of them from the Midwest, so prone to be loneliness and alert, due to differences in educational environment, religious customs and language barriers. In this premise, it may decide not much people participate in e-learning actively, even if the participation also can't obtain the ideal effect.

From the purpose of using the Internet, it's mainly about searching information, interpersonal communication (such as WeChat, QQ), entertainment (such as playing games, watching drama). In the Internet, College Minority students tend to simple online search data, more recreational activities. From the classification of frequently used resource categories, a variety of APP sort of the most on the front, followed by e-books, periodicals, encyclopedias, etc. Behind is the entertainment website. This shows that minority college students can grasp the network reasonably and practically, but still need to improve the effective use of the network. Combine the analysis of participants' choice of Internet sites, it can be considered that most minority college students use computer and network technology is not ideal. So it is necessary and need to participate in e-learning actively, which is a requirement about network technology in an "Internet plus" era.

Properties on E-learning

Contact Ways Cause the Different Atmosphere

The statistics show that in the popularity of e-learning situation of minority college students, more than half of them have already come into contact with e-learning before they enter university, mainly through the school teachers recommend and provide resources. The main reason for those who had no contact with e-learning before entering the university is that no time, poor self-control ability and too lazy to use resources. Based on this situation, put forward the question “what do you think of the e-learning atmosphere around now” to the participants. The results show that less than half think that the atmosphere is very strong. Nearly 1/3 thinks that almost no atmosphere, and the e-learning is in a passive state, with a lot of time online for fun.

Cognition Affects Popularization

Simply evaluate and score the participants’ understanding of e-learning. The results show an average score of 2.62 (5 points), which is in a failing state. Specific performance is that more than 1/3 of the participants didn’t understand the e-learning well, about 1/10 of them know little, only about 1/10 know very well. Serious polarization determines the popularity of e-learning in the
process of using the network of minority college students, and decides their attitudes towards e-learning. It can be seen that among the minority college students, the vast majority of them have a dispensable attitude, less than 1/5 like e-learning very much. Of course, there are students who do not like. The above basic situation shows that a large part of college students are necessary to actively participate in network e-learning. Although from the objective conditions, the current e-learning platform has been built quite complete and everything has been done to invest resources in all aspects, the network education in our country still needs great efforts to make e-learning practical and charming, to attract college students to establish learning awareness and improve the frequency and ability to consciously study.

**Psychological Inertia Causes Learning Inertia**

A survey shows that minority college students are in the different levels of learning burnout, which means meaningless sense of learning, and reduces learning efficiency and self-worth. Reflected in this study, from the point of time that participants use on e-learning, 70% of students who are willing to participate e-learning would have a look at it with no fixed time, while few spend little time on it. Make a survey on the reasons why students don’t participate in the e-learning actively. The results show that 2/5 of them don’t have habit of e-learning who prefer the class reading mode; more than 1/5 of the reasons come from poor self-control and laziness; few students can’t participate e-learning due to the hardware conditions, such as the network and equipment etc. are not complete. As we can see, minority college students are fully equipped with e-learning opportunities except few students who have no necessary conditions. The influence of traditional learning and the lack of self-awareness and action cause cannot actively participate in e-learning is the main reason of hindering the way to carry out. In this respect, how to let the minority students enhance confidence, recognize their ability and cultivate their correct value orientation, how to make e-learning habit gradually, how to develop attractive and learning value of e-learning resources. These questions seem particularly important. At the same time, more efforts should be made to solve the problem that a few areas, a few students cannot access to hardware and software of e-learning, so that the online interactive learning can be more people used.

**Conclusions**

Through the literature integration and questionnaire survey, the basic characteristics of college students in the network are as follows: long age of the Internet, long time to get on the Internet but not high level of computer control and relatively closed places of the Internet; high demand for network openness and speed; entertaining use of time is much more than learning. In terms of e-learning, lack of understanding and correct cognition; have dispensed attitude towards e-learning; do not accustom to e-learning; their own behavior inertia leads to resistance of digital; Can't have substantial improvement on ability through the e-learning and have low efficiency. The preference of e-learning shows that the purpose of learning is focused on the search information and learning methods are also basically searching information; the resource often used mainly is various APPs; more desire in improvement on obtaining and using resources ability rather than self-learning; hope the content can be more lively and interesting rather than rich and practical on psychological characteristics.

Minority college students who are the pillars of ethnic minorities play an important role in the coordinated development and common prosperity of nations. In today's Internet era which is conducive to personal development, to analysis the network e-learning situation of college students in China, we make surveys on the e-learning preference of minority college students that we select as the starting point, and promote the education of minority students and the construction of the Internet e-learning platform and mechanism through objective laws. Therefore, everyone should actively grasp the development opportunities, and use the network rationally and efficiently. In the age of e-learning, we should combine the enhancement of individual ability and quality with the Internet, and implement cultivating national talent and the benign development under the education platform construction.
Acknowledgment

This research was financially supported by Students Research Projects of South China University of Technology “xinchuan lecture series webcast practice project” (Y9160290), and Students Research Projects of South China University of Technology "Analysis on the current situation and trend of online education for the new generation of migrant workers"(Y9160420)

References


