



Importance of eLearning & Blended Learning in Iraqi Institutes of Higher Education

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**"We need to bring
learning to people
instead of people to
learning."**

(Elliot Masie)



PREFACE

- e-Learning has become an educational technique due to its influential force in higher education.
- The convergence of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) provides powerful tools to introduce new educational technologies as well as the usage of online applications.
- Iraqi Institutes of Higher Education face a challenge in adapting to on-going changing market needs.
- An expedient way of fulfilling such requirements is to change to e-learning, the Internet, up-to-date IT infrastructure, an access to global web and educational technology.



PREFACE (Cont.)

This presentation highlights the importance of e-Learning and considers it as a survival strategy for Iraqi Institutes of Higher Education.

- ✓ Today, information is no longer the primary goal of education.
- ✓ The challenge facing universities is to adapt to changing market needs in this technological economy.
- ✓ Academics must teach more than subject content and must pick up active learning, the Internet, and educational technology.
- ✓ In the past, top students were those who mastered the most information.
- ✓ Today, the winners are those who are able to analyse, think critically, use technology, write well, and possess strong social skills.



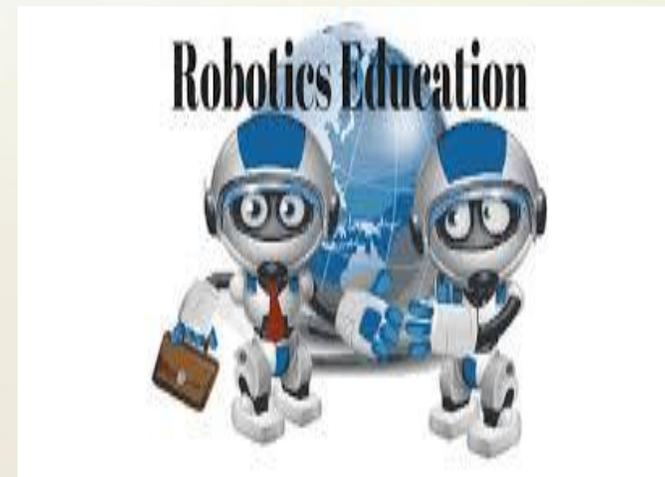
SOLUTION

- The obvious solution is online learning, but change is never easy.
- Using a blended approach that combines online and face-to-face approach.
- Since e-Learning allows students to study anytime, anywhere, basic education and upskilling will become more available to more people
- Universities must also provide online registration, electronic access to university services, and prompt feedback.



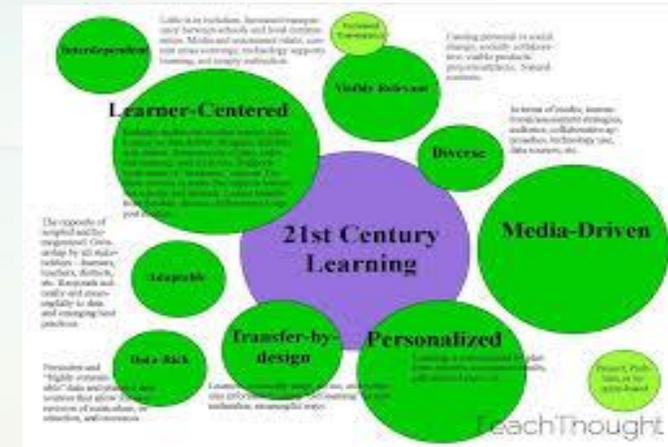
Issues in Higher Education

- Higher Education in Iraq is currently facing many problems and obstacles, but I will focus on just two of them:
 - ✓ The steady increase in the number of students aspiring to higher education, which is a global problem.
 - ✓ The lack of teaching staff in some modern and sophisticated disciplines.
- Therefore, the use of e-learning, is the best solution to many of the problems encountered by our universities



eLearning Characteristics

- The characteristics of such technology are as follows:
 - provide a large amount of information and skills.
 - provide the opportunity for students to study anytime, anywhere.
 - enable the student to practice self-reliance in receiving and analysing information.
 - universities are able to utilize the best national and local or global expertise.
 - reduce the financial costs of both institutions and student.
 - provide opportunities for the largest number of students.



eLearning Drawbacks

- Despite such advantageous characteristics, there are some drawbacks related to e-learning:
 1. Unavailability of reliable Internet link, services and programs.
 2. Lack of skills among some students and some faculties in the IT, Internet and related programs.
 3. Failure by students with insufficient ability to study alone.
 4. Students may need follow-ups, assistance, guidance, and direct communication with the faculty.



Successful Instances

- Such drawbacks can be overcome by the adoption of the Blended Learning System.
- We can find instances of success of such a trend, such as:
 - Hamdan Bin Mohammed Smart University in Dubai is an outstanding example.
 - Faculty of Engineering in the University of Jordan and Hashemite University in Jordan.
 - Queen Rania of Jordan launched a non-profit Arabic platform for Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) named Edrak.
 - There have been attempts by individual academic staff in Iraq universities, but such attempts require a lot of work to be performed centrally through the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.





Examples from UK

- There are increasing and varied pressures driving the rise in use of e-Learning within UK higher education.
- University of Manchester (UoM) and other institutions draw a framework on the experiences of designing, building and delivering **successful flexible learning programmes** within the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences.
- The Royal Academy of Engineering has produced several reports over the past few years, all of which point to the need to improve the **quality of engineering education** and provides practical suggestions to the people and organisations involved in the commissioning, design and use of e-learning resources in engineering education.
- Engineering Institute of Technology (EIT) deliver many e-Learning programs designed for engineers, technicians and electricians.





Conclusions

- Iraqi Institutes of Higher Education need to realize the importance of e-Learning and Blended Learning and consider it as a survival strategy for their institutes.
- British Institutes are required to play their role in promoting both e-Learning and Blended Learning and to grasp the opportunity for satisfying such a need.





**“Online learning is not
the next big thing; it is
the now big thing.”**

(Donna J. Abernathy)





Thank you for listening





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