

Challenges in Innovating and Re-Purposing Student Learning For The USP Region

Anare Tuitoga

USP

Abstract:

Moving from the traditional print mode to using blended mode especially online learning through the use of available learning management systems (LMS) in the offering of ODL materials is a challenge for the USP region. In using these modes there is a need to be innovative and to re-purpose the students learning to enhance this experience. Yet this is hampered by the many challenges that USP faces. These include: overcoming the skepticism that any worthwhile learning can replace classroom teaching; the diverse educational backgrounds of the students; accessibility to technology and support, high cost of the internet and hardware; 24-hour supply of electricity unavailable or are rationed in some of the countries; overcoming the non-reading culture of Pacific learners; encumbering policies of the Ministries of Education; examination-oriented curriculum; teacher centred learning rather than learner-centred; infrastructure and support; and the challenge of smallness and isolation. These are some of the challenges which confront learners and teachers in the region and are the focus of this paper. Ideally a learner-centred approach will help re-orient and re-purpose students learning through the use of the various LMS but the challenges that USP faces will have to be addressed. Whatever technology is used must allow for students to be at the centre of all the planning for worthwhile learning that takes place.