

Dear TOJDE Readers,

Welcome to Volume 25 Issue 2 of TOJDE

There are 15 articles in the April 2024 issue of TOJDE. 34 authors from 6 different countries contributed to the issue. These countries are Indonesia, Nigeria, Oman, Russia, South Africa and Türkiye.

PROFICIENCY OF TEACHERS' PERCEPTIONS OF DISTANCE EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY USAGE COMPETENCIES: A META-ANALYSIS STUDY authored by Savas VARLIK is the 1st article. In this study, it was aimed to examine the perceptions of distance education and the effect size of technology usage competencies by using meta-analysis method. In the meta-evaluation carried for this purpose, twenty-eight studies that met the criteria for inclusion in the research were reached. Results are discussed in the end of the article.

The 2nd article, VIRTUAL SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETATIONS IN OPEN AND DISTANCE EDUCATION: A PROBE INTO 'ENABLERS' AND 'CONSTRAINTS', is written by Sindile Amina NGUBANE and Olufemi Timothy ADIGUN. Based on the Job Demand Resources Model, two research questions were raised and answered in this paper. Based on the findings, appropriate recommendations are made by the authors.

The title of the 3rd article is THE INVESTIGATION OF ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE ELEMENTS AND TYPOLOGIES IN A GIGA OPEN UNIVERSITY: ANADOLU UNIVERSITY OPEN EDUCATION FACULTY 40th YEAR RESEARCH. The authors are Guzin KIYIK KICIR and Asu ALTUNOGLU. The purpose of this article is to reveal the functioning of the elements that make up the organizational culture of the Open Education Faculty in the institution and the types of culture that are seen as dominant in the organization. The results of the qualitative content analysis revealed that Anadolu University Open Education Faculty has a strong and established culture, and this contributes to the work done and institutional development.

Nilgun TOSUN and Soner ALTINTAS are the authors of the 4th article. This article is titled AN EVALUATION OF TEACHERS' VIEWS ON OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES. The objective of this study is to determine the ways in-service teachers in Türkiye make use of open educational resources and their opinions on using them. For this purpose, the explanatory sequential design has been employed. The results are discussed in the article.

FOUR SCENARIOS OF PERSONALIZED LEARNING INTEGRATION MEDIATED BY A DIGITAL PLATFORM is the title of the 5th article, and the authors are Mikhail SHCHEVLIAGIN and Diana KOROLEVA. This study investigates personalized learning at the secondary education level underpinned by a digital platform. The personalized learning integration is analyzed from the perspective of teacher practice which integrates the digital platform built on the personalized learning methodology. The scenarios are explained and discussed in the article.

The authors of the 6th article are Murat CINAR, Omer DEMIR and Sinan KESKIN. The title is SOCIAL ANXIETY IN ONLINE INSTRUCTIONAL DISCUSSION FORUMS: THE ROLE OF PARTICIPATION STYLES AND ICT INFRASTRUCTURE. This research investigates variances in learners' participation styles and social anxiety in Instructional Discussion Forums in terms of gender and ICT availability. Based on the findings, future directions and practical implications are suggested for both researchers and practitioners.

The title of the 7th article is THE IMPACT OF DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AND LEADERSHIP ON ORGANIZATIONAL RESILIENCE IN DISTANCE EDUCATION INSTITUTION: HIGHER-ORDER SEM APPROACH. FIRMANSYAH, Gustriza ERDA and Arie Wibowo KHURNIAWAN are the authors. This study aims to determine the impact of digital transformation and leadership capability in maintaining the organization, particularly in distance education. This study used questionnaires distributed

to 402 students to obtain their opinions on digital transformation, leadership capability, and organizational resilience in Universitas Terbuka. The results indicates that there is a positive and significant impact of digital transformation and leadership capability on the organizational resilience of Universitas Terbuka.

THE EFFECTS OF GROUP-BASED PERSONALIZED ONLINE TEACHING ON LEARNERS' COMMUNITY OF INQUIRY AND ACHIEVEMENT OF COURSE is the 8th article, and the author is Baris SEZER. The aim is to investigate the effects of delivering group-based personalized teaching via an electronic performance support system in an online medical informatics course on medical students' academic achievement and community of inquiry levels. The group personalized teaching method used in this study could be a guide for future studies.

Kelly YOUNG and Angelo FYNN are the authors of the 9th article. The title of this article is GRIT, RETENTION AND STUDENT SUCCESS IN A SOUTH AFRICAN DISTANCE EDUCATION INSTITUTION: A POSTGRADUATE TRIAD? This study makes use of a non-experimental design and used Grit-S and demographic data combined with records of student performance and progression to ascertain grit's role in determining retention and degree completion at a mega distance education institution in South Africa. Results from the final structural model highlight the significant influence of perseverance and first-to-second year retention on student success (operationalized at qualification completion). Results and subsequent implications are discussed in the article.

The 10th article is TEACHERS' READINESS FOR BLENDED LEARNING, THEIR REASONS, CHALLENGES, AND SUGGESTIONS FOR PRACTISING BLENDED LEARNING. The authors are Ayşegül LIMAN KABAN, Esra YATAGANBABA, Alev ATES COBANOGU and Mehmet KOKOC. This study aims to understand the experiences of Turkish teachers in blended learning, the challenges they encountered, and their recommendations in this regard. The results can help both pre-service and in-service teachers to be sensitive toward their blended teaching competencies. This study also has the potential for informing teacher education departments to equip prospective teachers with required disciplinary knowledge along with digital competencies.

The 11th article which is authored by Baris BULUNMAZ and Ramazan BILGE is titled A RESEARCH ON THE EFFICIENCY OF DISTANCE EDUCATION IN UNIVERSITIES DURING THE PANDEMIC. This study aims to examine the effects of the devastation caused by the pandemic on students at the higher education level in the context of efficiency. The data obtained was subjected to reliability and validity analysis, and it was by using the SPSS program. The results are examined with different dimensions.

The title of the 12th article is GRIT, RETENTION AND STUDENT SUCCESS IN TEACHERS' OPINIONS ON TECHNOLOGY LEADERSHIP ROLES OF SCHOOL PRINCIPALS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, and the authors are Yücel SIMSEK, Tamer SERT and Beyza HIMMETOĞLU DAL. The study, which utilizes qualitative research methods, is designed as a survey study. Based on the results, some recommendations which can contribute to both implementation and theory have been developed. Accordingly, conducting researches which employ multiple data collection methods and tools to investigate technology leadership roles of school principals is considered important.

The 13th article, THE EFFECT OF USING WHATSAPP BOT ON ENGLISH VOCABULARY LEARNING, is authored by Ali AL GHAITHI, Behnam BEHFOROZ and Hassan ISYAKU. This study tries to design a WhatsApp bot to be implemented in English language vocabulary learning context in Oman. The study highlights that chatbots could be the best supplementary materials assisting teaching in delivering materials.

DEVELOPMENT OF INSTAGRAM-BASED LEARNING MEDIA TO INCREASE STUDENTS LEARNING INTEREST IN ACID-BASE MATERIALS is the 14th article and the authors are Afis Baghiz SYAFRUDDIN, Hayuni Retno WIDARTI and Deni Ainur ROKHIM. This study aims to determine the feasibility of Instagram-based chemistry learning media and the results of increasing student interest

in learning acid-base material in everyday life with a multi-representation approach. The method used in this study is the ADDIE (Analysis, Design, Development, Implementation, and Evaluation) research and development model. The results show the importance of expert validators and learning motivation.

Zehra Tugba GUZEL is the author of the 15th article, titled AN EVALUATION OF PERSONALIZED LEARNING BY ONLINE INFORMAL EDUCATION IN CASE OF DESIGN EDUCATION. This study aims to identify the contributions and limitations of informal learning in personalization. According to this article, with equal access and fair and accurate evaluation mechanisms, informal online education can help professionals develop unique, global, and harmonious perspectives.

Hope to meet again in the next issue of TOJDE.

Cordially,

Dr. T. Volkan YUZER

Editor in Chief