

Dear TOJDE Readers,

Welcome to Volume 26 Issue 1 of TOJDE.

There are 14 articles in the January 2025 issue of TOJDE. 36 authors from 11 different countries contributed to the issue. These countries are Colombia, India, Indonesia, Italy, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Singapore, South Africa, Turkiye and Vietnam.

UNBOXING MICRO-CREDENTIALS FOR ODL UNIVERSITIES: COMPETENCY DEVELOPMENT FOR HUMAN CAPITAL, authored by Santhi RAGHAVAN, Nantha Kumar SUBRAMANIAM and Ahmad Izanee AWANG, is the first article. This paper investigates the role of micro-credentials in competency development and employment opportunities and the trends and challenges in offering micro-credentials. According to this article, Open and Distance Learning universities implementing micro-credentials must consider the acceptance and stackability of micro-credentials from different higher education institutions, with clear validation metrics, and allow transferability among Open and Distance Learning institutions in different countries.

The title of the 2nd article is ACADEMIC SUCCESS IN SYNCHRONOUS ONLINE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS. The authors are Oronzo MAZZEO, Lucia MONACIS and Paolo CONTINI. This study aims to analyze the influence of such factors, as cognitive engagement, learning strategies and social support on academic success and student satisfaction in online learning environments. The findings provide professionals in the field of education with suggestions for synchronous online-based teaching about ways to plan a community learning space where teacher-student interactions as well as peer interactions are fostered. This more collaborative-constructivist perspective could improve students' academic achievements.

The 3rd article, BEYOND GENRES: EXPLORING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GAMER TYPES AND THE FIVE-FACTOR MODEL OF PERSONALITY, is written by Ayse ULUTAS and Sezan SEZGIN. This study explores connections between gamer personalities and motivations by examining relationships between personality traits and player types. Results highlight Player, Disruptor, and Socializer types are the most common when considering both single and combined player profiles, indicating strong drives for rewards, boundary-testing, and social connections.

DEVELOPMENT OF STEAM-BASED E-MODULES ON HUMAN CIRCULATORY TOPICS CONTAINING CRITICAL REASONING AND INDEPENDENT CHARACTERS is the title of the 4th article, and the authors are Esty Setyo UTAMININGSIH and ELLIANAWATI. This research aims to develop a STEAM-based e-module containing critical and independent reasoning characters. The method used in this study is Research and Development. The validation of e-modules is assessed based on three aspects, including aspects of content, construction, and language. The authors discuss the results in the article.

Azmi FITRIATI, Subuh ANGGORO, Corrienna Abdul TALIB and Tin Lam TOH are the authors of the 5th article titled THE INTENTION OF GENERATION Z TO USE MOBILE LEARNING: THE ROLE OF SELF-EFFICACY AND ENJOYMENT. This study aims to formulate Technology Acceptance Model as a model of m-learning acceptance for Generation Z. Technology Acceptance Model developed based on self-efficacy and enjoyment is expected to explain the behavior of Generation Z in accepting m-learning. The results contribute to the formulation of a successful m-learning implementation model for Generation Z.

The title of the 6th article is TEACHING SELF-REGULATED LEARNING STRATEGIES ON EFL STUDENTS IN MOOCS: A CASE STUDY IN VIETNAM. Cao-Tuong DINH and Hoang-Yen PHUONG are the authors. The study provides practical insights for incorporating Self-regulated Learning training into Massive Open Online Courses-based learning and offers a theoretical foundation for promoting Self-regulated Learning across diverse educational systems.

INTENTION TO ADOPT INNOVATION CULTURE AMONG EMPLOYEES IN ONLINE DISTANCE LEARNING HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS is the 7th article. Liana MOHAMAD and Zahir OSMAN are the authors. The objective of the study is to evaluate both direct and indirect relationships among organizational culture, attitude, intention, and adoption of the innovation culture in Malaysian Open and Distance Learning higher education institutions. The findings of this study are crucial for Open and Distance Learning institutions to maximize employee performance by adopting an innovation culture for their survival and sustainability.

The authors of the 8th article are Duong Minh TUAN and Le Thi Diem LAN. The title is MODELING THE NEXUS BETWEEN STUDENTS' INTERACTION, SATISFACTION, AND ACCEPTANCE OF ONLINE LEARNING. This study is intended to examine the effects of various types of interaction on student satisfaction and the impact of student satisfaction on their behavioral acceptance of online learning. The study also aims to examine the mediating role of student satisfaction in the relationship between interaction and perceived acceptance. The results emphasize the importance of fostering meaningful interaction activities between teachers and students, as well as among students themselves, in enhancing student satisfaction and further boosting the prospects of online education in today's digital world.

Yesim OZANSAK TOPCU, Buket KARADAG and Gul GULER are the authors of the 9th article. The title of this article is INVESTIGATION OF PRESERVICE TEACHERS' METAPHORIC PERCEPTIONS REGARDING THE MEASUREMENT AND EVALUATION TOOLS IN DISTANCE EDUCATION. The study uses phenomenology to examine teacher candidates' metaphorical perceptions for measurement and evaluation practices in distance education. The most remarkable finding is that using written exams and multiple-choice tests does not deliver effective feedback, unlike assignments. By conducting seminars for academics, experts should promote the utilization of feedback for other tools.

The 10th article which is authored by Eko SUHARTOYO, Rida AFRILYASANTI and Nur MUKMINATIEN is titled ONLINE CLASSROOM-BASED READING ASSESSMENT: COMPREHENSION AND PRACTICE DEVELOPMENT. This study aims to develop an online classroom-based reading assessment and evaluate its efficacy in measuring students' reading skills. The study contributes valuable insights into the benefits of online classroom-based reading assessments and their potential to enhance traditional assessment methods in English as a Foreign Language settings in this technologically advanced era.

PRACTICAL DIMENSIONS OF THE METAVERSE IN DISTANCE EDUCATION: CASE STUDY WITH INDIGENOUS STUDENTS FROM A COMMUNITY IN MEXICO is the 11th article authored by Victor del Carmen Avendano PORRAS, Iris Alfonzo ALBORES and Sergio Andres Correal CUERVO. This research aims to explore the dimensions and implications of the early use and integration of metaverses in public high schools in the region of the Altos de Chiapas, Mexico, through a sequential mixed methods approach. The findings provide empirical background and practical recommendations to guide the progressive incorporation of these digital pedagogical innovations, grounded in the needs and visions expressed by student protagonists, mitigating possible biases through the participatory design of culturally sensitive educational metaverses.

The 12th article THE BLENDED LEARNING STATION ROTATION MODEL IN EFL TEACHING: OPINIONS OF THE IMPLEMENTER is authored by Meruyert SEITOVA and Ziyoda KHALMATOVA. The study's purpose is to reveal the implementer's opinions toward the use of the Station Rotation Model of blended learning, in terms of features, challenges and effectiveness of the model including further implementation and suggestions for the station rotation model. The findings reveal that the implementer mostly mention fulfilling hobbies as a feature of the model, and most students face challenges in the group working station, while the pair working station is identified as the most effective.

Nazarana MATHER and Liesl SCHEEPERS are the authors of 13th article titled FEEDBACK ON FEEDBACK: AN EXPLORATORY CASE STUDY OF ONLINE FACILITATORS' PERCEPTIONS REGARDING THEIR FEEDBACK PRACTICES IN HIGHER EDUCATION. This study explores the perceptions of online facilitators regarding meaningful feedback in a Higher Education online learning

environment. According to findings, the researchers have made suggestions that future research and professional development initiatives should focus on addressing these barriers and finding practical ways to provide accessible feedback to students more meaningfully and efficiently.

The 14th article titled IMPACT OF E-LEARNING ON ENGINEERING EDUCATION DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: A STUDY IN THE NORTHEASTERN REGION OF INDIA is authored by Bijoy Kumar UPADHYAYA, Apurba SAHA and Pijush Kanti DUTTA PRAMANIK. This article aims to assess the impact of e-learning on engineering education during the pandemic in the Northeastern region of India. The findings highlight the need to address technological challenges, enhance online instructional design, and consider individual preferences and needs in shaping the future of engineering education.

I wish a happy new year for all of you. Hope to meet again in the April 2025 issue of TOJDE.

Cordially,

Dr. T. Volkan YUZER

Editor in Chief