Distance Learning Education: Promises, Problems and Possibilities

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Abstract

Distance learning is an excellent method of reaching learners who are separated by time and distance, or both. Because of the competing priorities of work, home and school, such learners desire a high degree of flexibility. The structure of distance learning gives learners the greatest possible control over the time, place and pace of education; however, it is not without problems. Loss of student motivation due to the lack of face-to-face contact with teachers and peers, potentially prohibitive startup costs, and lack of faculty support are all barriers to successful distance learning. This paper will examine some of the current research and thought on the promises, problems and future possibilities of modern distance learning.

Keywords: Education, distance learning, technologies