USING CASE STUDIES IN DISTANCE EDUCATION FOR INCREASED INTERACTIVITY AND LOWER DROP OUT RATES

Klaus Solberg Søilen, Blekinge Institute of Technology (BTH), Sweden

Abstract

Previous research suggest that there is a correlation between amount of student interaction and the distance-learners’ educational experience, e.g. Andrusyszn et al, (1999), and Wright et al, (2000). To find effective forms of student participation is a major challenge in distance education. Experience at BTH shows that case studies are well adapted for distance education platforms using forums and chat boards. Forums seem to have another advantage, that students in distributed and Web based Distance learning courses would report feeling less threatened to seek help than students in more traditional learning environments (Kitsantas and Chow, 2007). These factors together may reduce drop out rates. Previous research by Kearsley and Lynch (1996) showed a drop out figure between 20 and 30% in distance learning courses. At BTH this figure has been higher than 50%. As e-learning programs are constantly being developed and universities have become more financially depended upon these programs, the reduction in drop out rates has become an increasingly important issue in business education.

LITERATURE


Author

Dr. Klaus Solberg Søilen
Blekinge Institute of Technology, School of Management
Box 520, 372 25 Blekinge, Sweden
kss@bth.se