

THE TRANSFORMATIONAL PROMISE OF QUALITY ON-LINE DISTANCE EDUCATION OF THE 21ST CENTURY HIGHER EDUCATION: THE GLOBALIZATION PERSPECTIVES

*Author:
Adam Goh, Ph.D.*

ABSTRACT

The trillion dollar global education and training industry had undergone a radical change; and the fully on-line distance learning market is a rapidly growing opportunity that generated billion in tuition revenues for institutions. Market forces are providing a catalyst to alter the traditional ways education delivered. The mega trends such as demographics, the internet, and the globalization, the advent of new cyber technologies and solutions, the changing times and outsourcing strategies, all play major roles in the transformation towards the higher education landscape of 21st Century professionals and learners.

The impact of the technological changes and specifically the cyber environment will play a vital role in this transformation by reducing the cost deployment, and increasing education's accessibility. For example, digital resource libraries, smart virtual classroom, hybrid distributed learning, interactive multimedia together have the capacity to convey voice, data and video to almost any location that have cyber connectivity. The result of these technology innovations was the emergence of a new knowledge-based economy that driven by knowledge and information.

The attributes of this paper present the arguments that the new innovative information technologies were forcing major changes on the traditional campus-based learning institutions in both the public and private sectors. The policy makers are still relied heavily on high-stakes testing as the mainstay in their education reforms. In fact, it is necessary for education to empower learner to become thinkers, learner communicators, and social beings as well as to be good citizens of tomorrow. It also addresses the growing consensus from professional practitioners, parental and public opinion that the obsession with tests and league tables has had its day.

Key words: Innovation, Education Technology, Quality On-line Distance Learning