

Future Studies of Religious Education Based on Virtual Learning

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Abstract

A detailed analysis of current trends in virtual learning that can be applied for future studies of religious education and sharing results of introducing a new concept of virtual E-learning in Shia Islamic Education.

A detailed study and analysis of latest trends in virtual Learning being applied in different educational sectors that is yielding great benefits for educating young generation.

Also share the outcome of applying these new virtual learning trends and techniques used in introducing a new concept of E-learning in Shia Islamic Education Platform by the name of 'KAZ Online School'².

The results will be based on quantitative statistical analysis based on behaviours and adaptive trends of more than 200 subscribers/learner's of KAZ Online School.

Virtual learning can help us to propagate the Islamic education across the globe to even remote areas and unlock new arenas for both preaching the true Islamic concepts within Islamic community and inter-faith dialogue.

For this we need to understand the reaping benefits of latest developments and technologies being used in virtual learning space by different educational sectors. And then apply this to our current Islamic Education methodologies.

This detail study and analysis will help to understand the future trends that are required to be adapted to attract and inspire future generations towards great treasure of Islamic education and values through virtual learning.

Key Words: Religious Education, Virtual Learning, Future Studies

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Introduction

The advancement of science and technology has resulted in changes in many aspects of social and moral order which was strongly upheld. Currently, the moral and social values tend to be ignored in which learners are required only to catch up in the field of science and technology if they want to stay updated.¹

Science and technology also affects globalization. Globalization has created an increasingly open and interdependent world between nations.

All countries are not only open to each other, but also interdependent with each other. Due to mutual interdependence and openness, all countries are increasingly open to the effects of globalization.²

Globalization is resulting in high volume of information penetrating each country every day. This information is not only affecting knowledge overall but also affecting the values of Islamic education. This includes changes in lifestyle habits such as dress patterns, food consumption, and recreational activities.

Values become more uniformed, especially among young people which affects their social, economic and religious aspects.

Sometimes religious values are abandoned because the values are considered ancient/old, traditional and left behind. Meanwhile those who follow the current in-fashion trends are considered advanced and modern, ignoring the deterioration it's causing in religious and moral values.

Globalization also demands readiness in the global life race. The competition requires young generation to prepare themselves in all aspects, such as intelligence, tenacity, toughness, innovation and so forth.

1. Anshor, 2010, p.12.

2. Sudarwan Danim,2015, p. 14.

This readiness is important to maintain competitiveness in global competition, and it is necessary to make a significant effort to save the young generation as the successor to the struggle and development of Islamic values in the future.

One way to counter the influence of globalization is through improving the education system, especially Islamic education. The success and the failure of an education system are determined by its adaptability to the upcoming challenges.

Islamic education aims to form the human values of perfection which leads to Allah's Obedience and achieving happiness in the world and the hereafter. Islamic education is also expected to establish self-awareness of learners as a servant of Allah as well as its function as its representative on this planet.¹

To achieve the purpose of Islamic Education, it is necessary to use an effective learning strategy, clear educational approach, use of multiple popular media mediums, interesting material, engaging teaching methodology and learning activities.²

Media is the most important elements to support the success of the learning process. The use of media in teaching and learning process can generate new desires, interests, motivation and stimulate learning activities as well as enhance learners' psychological state.³

The use of media at the learning orientation stage will also greatly improve effectiveness in delivery of learning contents. Other than generating motivation and interests of learners, the media can also improve understanding,

1. Yusufhadi Miarso, 2008, p. 11.

2. Empy Effendi, 2011, p. 33.

3. Ahmad Hidayat, 2002, p. 90.

presentation of data with interesting and reliable strategy, facilitate interpretation of data, and condense information.

The development of science and technology has a positive impact on Islamic education. Various types of learning mediums have emerged such as digitization of textbooks and old scripts. Then this transformed into other types such as tape recorders, television, movies etc.

Currently the trend is leading it towards computer-based learning and internet-based learning, which is known as E-learning. E-learning is currently widely used in all levels of education to complement face-to-face classroom learning.

Through e-learning, students can download learning materials anytime and anywhere. The students can also accomplish the task given by the teachers online and completing online examination.

The tendency to develop e-learning as an alternative to learning in various Islamic educational institutions and training is increasing in line with developments in the field of communication and information technology.

Infrastructure in the field of telecommunications that support the implementation of e-learning is no longer just in urban areas, but gradually began to be enjoyed by those residing in rural areas.

One of the challenges in Islamic education development globally is how to provide an educational system that can accommodate different age brackets of learners and bring Islamic education in level with normal secular education with good quality in an engaging and interesting way. This is important for establishing strong and intelligent Muslim societies in the future.

One solution is to practice self-learning or distance learning through the use of technology such as E-learning. This paper provides analysis of future trends in E-Learning and then uses a case study to explain the impacts of using these trends.

Definition and E-Learning Characteristics

Many experts outline the definition of e-learning from different point of views. Some common definitions on e-learning are outlined as follows:

- E-learning is a teaching and learning process that allows the delivery of teaching materials to learners using the internet platform or other computer network tools.
- E-learning is an educational system that uses electronic applications to support teaching and learning through internet, computer networks, and standalone computers.
- E-learning is all learning and teaching process which includes the use of computers to support improving the quality of learning, including the use of mobile technologies.

E-learning also use web based teaching materials, hypermedia, multimedia or websites, online discussion forums, collaborative software, e-mail, blogs, wikis, computer aided assessment, educational animation, simulations, games, learning management software, electronic voting systems, and others. It can also be a combination of different medias mentioned above.¹

From the definition it can be concluded that the system or the concept of education that utilizes information technology in the process of teaching and learning can be referred to E-learning.

The characteristics of E-learning are as follows:

- Utilizing the services of electronic technology; where teachers and learners, learners and fellow learners or teachers and fellow teachers can communicate easily.

1. Soekartawi, 2017, p.12.

- Utilizing the benefits of computers such as digital media and computer networks.
- Using self-learning materials stored on the computer where the material can be accessed by teachers and learners anytime and anywhere.
- Utilizing computer technology to manage schedule, curriculum, learning progress and materials relating to the administration of education any time.¹

E-learning is understood as a learning process carried out using electronic media both formal and informal context. In formal context, e-learning is the use of electronic means in the curriculum, syllabus, subjects and tests which have been arranged based on the schedule agreed by the relevant parties (managers of e-learning and learners themselves).

Such e-learning usually involves high levels of interaction and it is mandated by a company on its employees. The e-learning may also be a distance learning program which is managed by universities or companies which their business is to provide e-learning services to the public.

E-learning can also be done informally with simpler interactions. For example, e-learning uses mailing lists, e-news letters or personal websites, organizations and companies to promote certain services, programs, knowledge or skills to wider communities.

E-learning is always identified with internet usage in learning and teaching processes. Tools to delivering e-learning are very diverse which include internet, intranet, CD, DVD, mp3, PDA, and others. The use of internet in e-learning generally is based on consideration that the internet supports a

1. Soekartawi, 2017, p. 6.

wide range of access. Some educational institutions and companies also use an intranet network as an e-learning medium to reduce cost.

There are few more points related to e-learning as follows:

- **Distance Learning**

E-learning is distance learning that utilizes computer technology, computer network or Internet.

E-learning allows learners to study education material through online computer networks in their own places without attending the classroom.

E-learning is also understood as a form of web-based learning that can be accessed from a local intranet or the internet. E-learning material does not have to be distributed on-line either through local network or internet, but it can be distributed off-line using CD / DVD.

In this case, teachers may develop an application and learning materials as required by students and then the application and material are distributed through CD or DVD. The learners use the CD/DVD at their own places.

- **Teaching with Computers**

E-learning is delivered by using computer/mobile devices. Most of the devices are equipped with multimedia devices, internet connection, and local intranet. With a computer is connected to an intranet or the internet, learners can participate in e-learning programs. The number of learners who can participate is not limited by class capacity.

The subject matter can also be presented with a higher standard quality compared to conventional class which depends on the condition of a teacher.

- Teaching is Supported by Specific Experts

Although e-learning seems to be provided solely through a computer device, e-learning can be prepared, supported, and managed by a team of experts in their own fields which include:

- Subject Matter Expert (SME) or a trained resource person.
- Instructional Designer (ID), a person who systematically design material from SME become e-learning materials by incorporating elements of teaching methods to make the material more interactive, easier and more interesting to learn.
- Graphic Designer (GD) / Animator, a person who transforms text material into graphic form with interesting images, colors, and layouts for effective and interesting learning and teaching.
- Expert in the field of Learning Management System (LMS); a person who manages systems on websites to manage traffic interaction between instructors and learners, and between learners with other learners.

Learners can access modules, accomplish tasks, do tests, access timetable of discussion with virtual instructors, other resource, and other learners.

Through this LMS, learners can also accomplish the given tasks, perform tests, check their progress and score. E-learning is not solely given by machines, but it is also accompanied by experts in their own fields.

Advantages and Disadvantages of E-Learning

There are several advantages or disadvantages of using the internet Islamic education system which includes.¹

1. Suteja, 2016, p. 24.

- Availability of e-moderating facilities, where teachers and learners can communicate easily. They can communicate easily without being limited by distance, place and time.
- Educators and learners can use instructional materials or structured and scheduled learning instructions through the internet.
- Learners can learn teaching materials anytime and anywhere if needed because the teaching materials are stored in online computer/cloud systems.
- If the learner requires additional information relating to the material, he / she can access the internet easily.
- Both educators and learners can conduct online discussions which involve a large number of participants, thus adding knowledge and wider insight.
- When learning is practiced online, the learners may become more active.
- E-learning is more efficient. For example for those who stay away from school or do not have access to quality education within their vicinity.

The use of Internet e-learning learning also has some disadvantages which includes.¹

- Lack of interaction between teachers and learners or even among learners themselves. This lack of interaction can slow the formation of values in the learning and teaching process.
- The tendency to ignore the academic aspects or social aspects and vice versa may encourage the growth of business/ commercial aspects in education system.

1. Suteja, 2016, p. 25.

- The learning and teaching process tends to resemble training programs rather than educational process.
- Teachers are required not only to poses conventional teaching techniques (face-to-face), but they are also required to know learning techniques using information and communication technology (ICT).
- Learners who do not have high learning motivation tend to fail.

The Use of e-Learning in Islamic Education

The term e-learning consists of the letter “e” which stands for “electronic” and “learning” which means “to learn”. Thus e-learning can be interpreted as learning by using electronic devices, especially computer and mobile devices.

The term e-learning can also be defined as a form of information technology applied in the field of education in cyberspace context. However, the term e-learning is more appropriately defined as making a transformation of the existing learning process in school/ madrasah, or college into a digital form which facilitated by internet technology.¹

Studies conducted by multiple educational organizations strongly support the development of e-learning, who states that computer-based learning is very effective, allowing 30% better education, 40% less time, and 30% cheaper cost. The World Bank in 1997 has announced the Global Distance Learning Network (GDLN) program which has partners in 80 countries around the world.

Through the GDLN, the World Bank provides 5 times more e-learning to the students (from 30 to 150 students) at a cost of 31% cheaper.²

1. Munir, 2009, p. 147.

2. Hamzah B, 2007, p. 40.

The use of e-learning in the learning process is rampant, because the e-learning system has advantages such as: improving the interaction of learning (enhance interactivity), facilitate the interaction from anywhere and at anytime (time and place flexibility), wider area (potential to reach a global audience), and facilitate the improvement and storage of learning materials (easy updating of content as well as it has achievable capabilities).¹

E-learning system provides benefits for both teachers and learners. The principle of e-learning includes: first, e-learning as a tool of learning process to solve problems, generate creativity, make learning process easier, directed and meaningful; Secondly, e-learning as an alternative in educational system has high-tech-high-touch principle which the process is more dependent on advanced technology and more importantly the high touch aspect benefits teachers or learners; Third, adjust e-learning with the readiness of teachers, learners, facilities and culture learning system.²

Internet and e-learning applications are now widely used in the learning process.

This becomes more complicated when it is applied to Islamic education process because Islamic teachers and Islamic education methods traditionally require face-to-face interaction because the learning content is dogmatic.

In addition, online content is often considered as doubtful by Islamic teacher. This shows lack of trust from Islamic teachers towards online contents.

1. Munir, 2009, pp. 174-176.

2. Ibid, p. 201.

According to multiple scholars there are two approaches that can be used by teachers in using or implementing e-learning:¹

- Theme-Centered Approach. This approach is practiced with the following steps: Define the topic. Determine the learning objectives. Determine the learning activities by utilizing relevant information technology to achieve the learning objectives.
- Software-Centered Approach. This approach is begun with identifying information technology. Then the teachers plan a relevant learning strategy for a particular learning topic.

Future E-Learning Trends

The future of learning lies outside traditional classrooms and the rising popularity of distance and E-Learning is a living proof of that. The upcoming E-Learning trends that are taking the world by storm are as follows:

1. Mobile Learning And Mobile Friendly Coursework

Mobile learning, also known as mLearning, is not simply E-Learning on a mobile device. The E-Learning material for mobile learning is specifically developed for mobile devices and the proper course content conversion demands skillful Instructional Design that is compatible with mobile devices.

e-Learning has become a fiercely consumer driven industry and the developers of E-Learning contents focus on prioritizing the client's needs.²

Increasing companies are launching Learning Management Systems and are promoting E-Learning with the help of native apps that are operational over multiple platforms.

1. Warsita, pp. 151-152.

2. Clark and Mayer, 2016, p. 67.

These organizations want their employees to have the luxury of accessing training materials and resources from any device, at any time and any place. The rising trend of mobile learning thus does not bind E-Learning experience to individuals sitting in front of a PC; rather, it revolutionizes E-Learning course designs for the next generation, always "on the go".

Learning content is accessed via mobile devices by about 70% of learners. That's why we predict that mobile learning will continue to rise in popularity in 2017 and beyond. Oftentimes, learners are switching from one device to another depending on their location or needs.

2. Gamification in Learning

This is a trend which aims at making learning a fun experience for individuals and has become one of the most sensational E-Learning trends in 2016-17.

Gamification of learning is not just meant for kids, but it equally engaging for adults and facilitates interaction. Gamification is not a very new trend; however, it is an ever evolving one.

This is an extremely powerful tool that improves learner innovation, skills, and problem solving capabilities. Learning games utilize several levels, that learners must complete, which focus on key issues or topics, thus helping knowledge retention. Organizations and corporations have invested in development of modules which combine training with games to improve employee performance, as well aid their personal development.¹

3. Social Learning

In most organizations, social learning and informal learning happens around E-Learning experiences.

1. Td.org, 2016.

There is great power in social polling, where learners can give their opinion or rate something, like a video, and then see what everyone else thinks.

This enables learners to explore the gray spaces rather than the strict black and white or right and wrong spaces E-Learning has often limited itself to in the past.

4. **Micro learning**

In a world that is perennially in haste, micro learning is the trend that is catching up the fastest. This E-Learning trend involves mini bytes of learning content made available to the learner or user to incorporate in his daily busy schedule without much difficulty.¹

Micro learning utilizes 5-10 minute videos, single page documents, focused articles, specific, small chunks of data or lessons and other such innovative and concise training resources that doesn't burden the learner with too much cognitive reading.

It can be accessed by users via mobile and other devices as bits of light reading providing a treasure trove of information, making it extremely popular, especially in the corporate sector.

Micro learning provides a structure to deliver learning content in a way that fits with what we know about how people learn—short, focused, regular challenges that stretch and, perhaps, reward us. It's currently a huge success in the United States Education Sector and gradually gaining worldwide popularity.

You've seen it in learning apps, such as Duolingo, and it's a model that grows with the learner.

In 2017 and beyond you'll see less discussion on "resources not courses", and more focus on approaches that use micro learning to personalize and structure content in digestible sizes.

1. Hung, 2012, p. 8.

5. Informal Training/ Video-Based Training

Thanks to the internet, access to information that one needs has never been easier.

Individuals, today, are a click away from gaining knowledge, insight, and even adequate training on a matter of complete ignorance within a fraction of a second.

A plethora of free and easily accessible informal learning resources such as videos, blogs, podcasts, and webinars are coaxing more and more people to take notice of this E-Learning trend.

Video-based trainings are among the most popular of these resources as they are designed to arrest and engage individuals. People, old or young, love watching videos and this trait is being exploited by E-Learning designers as well as organizations who have began incorporating videos in online learning and training.¹

Video content use is increasing. By 2019, video will be responsible for 80 percent of internet traffic around the world.²

This means that internet users will be sharing almost one million minutes of video content every second by 2019.

Thus, it's no surprise Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg projects that video will be the most shared content on Facebook within in the next five years.³

This opens the door to integrate video platforms, social learning, and video learning in educational courses. You can use authoring tools like Elucidat as a video platform

1. Td. org, 2016.

2. http://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/solutions/collateral/service-provider/visual-networking-index-vni/complete-white-paper-c11-481360.html?utm_campaign=elearningindustry.com&utm_source=%2Ftop-10-elearning-trends-to-watch-in-2017&utm_medium=link

3. http://www.popsci.com/mark-zuckerberg-within-five-years-facebook-will-be-mostly-video?utm_campaign=elearningindustry.com&utm_source=%2Ftop-10-elearning-trends-to-watch-in-2017&utm_medium=link

and drop in clips from YouTube, Vimeo, Wirewax, and more. And yes, you can build scenarios around them or go for interactive video.

Also expect to see more video sharing activity among employees, and live video streaming via video platforms, such as Periscope.

6. Personalization of Learning and Data/ Competency-Based Learning

Popularization of E-Learning has resulted in the popularization of personalized learning and access to data as well.

A learner who falls behind the class in a particular topic can make use of the E-Learning system to get access to more personalized instructions to catch up. More and more institutes make use of this Instructional Design to separate mastery and lack of it, facilitating better development of a student. On the other hand, competency-based learning and training programs in corporate organizations are a huge hit and a rising trend in E-Learning.

It provides the employees an insight into their own skills, strengths, and weaknesses and lets them identify the areas of improvement required to climb the corporate ladder.

Expect to see a wider acceptance of micro learning and digital learning design that addresses needs of the modern learner. Learning and Development teams will use modern design thinking to modernize typically boring E-Learning courses like On boarding in a new place.

The Learning and Development world is waking up to this idea that we need to move beyond just resource-based approaches for E-Learning. We need to think about multi-pronged approaches that fit in different consumption windows and patterns, as well as delivering against needs.

Two-Way Conversations In E-Learning

Changing how you think about learning can help you evolve your content instead of falling into the trap of being out of sync with modern learners' needs. It's now easier than ever to capture feedback from learners within content. You can now open up for users' input and ideas on what they'd like to see or what they need help with.

For example, use your E-Learning authoring tool to gauge needs and wants upfront: send out some polls, questionnaires, or content to seed thinking and then capture opinions. Then shape your strategy around it.

User Analytics / Big Data

User Analytics / Big data is the data or feedback that is produced by learners or users interacting with the E-Learning content and it is a big trend in the universe of E-Learning.

Big data is collected through Learning Management Systems and several other media. It empowers developers to improve and modify E-Learning courses, content, and material by delving deep into the learning behaviors and preferences of the users.

It provides robust statistics and numbers that allow the developers to tailor and customize learning activities according to the consumer needs, and help organizations to fine tune their E-Learning strategy in alignment to their objectives.¹

Cloud-Based E-Learning Systems

Cloud-based corporate training is steadily gaining ground and the latest trend has seen Learning Management Systems and authoring tools switch to cloud-based platforms.

1. Td. Org, 2016.

Cloud-based online training is easily accessible to learners across the globe and reduces training costs significantly.¹

Additionally, updating online training content and introducing new products and features is easy on Cloud and can be accomplished in a matter of minutes.

Cloud-based E-Learning and training also ensures advanced data encryption, thus aiding data security.

Wearable Technology Training

Wearable gadgets are the new rage in the world of technology. Google Glass, Apple Watch, and Oculus Rift are some of the gadgets that have pioneered the rising trend of Virtual Reality in E-Learning through wearable gadgets.

These wearable tech devices help users to interact with E-Learning content in a multi-dimensional and more dynamic way.²

These devices make E-Learning more engaging and interactive to individuals.

Technological advancements in the field make Virtual Reality more appealing with the help of 3D simulations and scenarios in the E-Learning realm.

KAZ Online School (Islamic E-Learning Platform Case Study)³

KAZ Online School presents a unique engaging online Shia Islamic E-Learning Platform specially focused on young generation.

1. Hung, 2012, p. 10.

2. Clark and Mayer, 2016, p. 68.

3. www.kazschool.com

Introducing Shia Islamic E-learning through interesting and engaging animated videos, activities, quizzes, webinars, discussion board and much more!

This platform maintains its uniqueness as it has implemented latest E-learning Trends to in space of Islamic Education which have not been explored in such organized way before. As young generation is more Audio and visual and does not take interest in traditional Islamic Teaching methods which is normally based on verbal lectures and text books.

This platform loaded with latest E-Learning Trends is helping them to learn better with colourful focused presentations and engaging videos.

- **KAZ Online School Concept**

Using the growing concept of E-Learning, KAZ Online School is designed to provide easy access of authentic Islamic content in form of self-paced online courses by using any type of electronic device which is connected to Internet.

After subscribing to a course, each week learner will receive a set of videos, activities, worksheets and quizzes for the following subjects covering topics in detail to help students understanding the subject and the practical implementation of Islam in their daily lives.

Currently KAZ online school is offering following courses:

- KAZ online School – Basic Course,
- How to understand the knowledge and wisdom of Quran,
- Understanding Imam (ATFS) of our Time,
- Prayers Made Easy - Complete Daily Prayers (Salah) guide.

We will share the brief details about each offered course as follows:

1. KAZ online School– Basic Course

This course is a comprehensive basic Islamic Education course. After subscribing to the course, each week learner will receive a set of videos, activities, worksheets and quizzes for the following subjects:

- Jurisprudence (Ahkam),
- Ethics (Akhlaq),
- History (Tareekh),
- Theology (Aqaid).

Each week lesson covers multiple topics on the above subjects in detail to help students understanding the subject and the practical implementation of Islam in their lives.

The course is comprises of 150+ Video Lessons, multiple worksheets and quizzes suitable for ages between 6 to 14 years.

2. How to Understand the Knowledge and Wisdom of Quran

This course is to understand in a simple and interesting manner that how Quran is the Book of Knowledge and Wisdom.

The focus is to make learner ponder and reflect to realize the wealth of knowledge and wisdom in the words of Allah Subhanhu wta'aala.

The course is comprises of 12 Video Lessons, multiple worksheets and quizzes suitable for all ages 14+.

3. Understanding Imam (ATFS) of our Time

This course is to understand the importance of the Imam (atfs) of our time and how to behave while he is in Occultation. So Allah Hasten his Appearance to fill this Earth with Justice and Peace.

The course is comprises of 3 Video Lessons, multiple worksheets and quizzes suitable for all ages.

4. Prayers Made Easy- Complete Daily Prayers (Salah) Guide

This course is an opportunity to learn all about performing daily Prayers (Salat) from scratch till end in an interesting and engaging manner.

This course covers all matters related to Prayers from its Pre-requisites, Positions, Meaning, Handling of Doubts and In-validations.

The course is comprised of Ahkam mentioned by leading Maraja (Jurists) of our time like Ayatollah Sistani, Ayatollah Khamenai, Ayatollah Makarim Shirazi and others through animated videos.

The course is comprises of 12 Video Lessons, multiple worksheets and quizzes suitable for all ages.

KAZ Online School Target Audience

The Target Audience for KAZ online school are as follows:

1. Young Generation to induce basics of Islamic concepts, teaching and values. Even if they are going to weekly Sunday schools/Madrassa then this will engage them in learning Islamic content over the remaining six days and covers the learning gaps (if any).
2. For Parents that are looking for easy accessible authentic Islamic Education source. As this course will equip them with Islamic education tools needed to educate and nurture their children. This will provide them complete Islamic Education with comprehensive, results-producing and interactive audio-visual resources at their fingertips.
3. For Islamic Education Teachers to gain the benefits of especially designed web based learning System. With this system an Islamic Education teacher will have access to use KAZ School Learning System.

This means online access to 1000+ Videos, Activities, Worksheets and Quizzes that can be used for face to face or online Islamic teaching to young kids. KAZ online School Team is also offering initial training to use the learning system and how he/she could benefit from it.

Now we will share with you that how latest E-Learning Trends have been applied which is making KAZ School Learners love spending time learning the true values of Islam in an easy and interesting manner.

Cloud-Based E-Learning System

KAZ Online School is a cloud based e-learning system. Its content is developed using multiple software and products and then hosted on a cloud based E-Learning Management System. This helps KAZ school Team to manage the course content and Learners in an efficient manner.

This enables KAZ Online School to have a secure, reliable 24/7 available Platform to host its courses and provide a fast and reliable global reach to their learners.

Due to this KAZ online School have grown rapidly across multiple geographical regions and currently have subscribers across 21 Countries like UK, US, Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan, India, East Africa, Chilli, Sweden, France, Denmark etc.

Micro Learning

KAZ online School is using micro learning techniques in developing its courses.

Each Lesson is specific to the topic distributed normally in three sections:

1. Video Lesson
2. Related 1-2 Page Worksheet
3. Related Multiple Choice Quiz

This enables learner to focus on the course content and absorb the subject more easily rather than being overwhelmed with the content.

For example a normal video lesson in KAZ Online School does not exceed more than 5 minutes in order to keep the learner engaged and focused on the content.

The below review on KAZ School website by a learner's Parent explicitly shows the value of using micro learning techniques.

“My daughter liked this online Islamic school a lot. It is designed so beautifully to engage children and to provide them Islamic knowledge through entertaining video clips and quizzes. We really appreciate Khanum Amber Zehra's efforts and pray for her success in this world and hereafter.. Jazakallah”- Syeda Fizza Haider Melbourne.

Informal Training / Video-Based Training

KAZ online School content is conceptually based on Informal Training through videos and animations.

The idea is to use the current habits of young generation in watching video clips on mediums like youtube, facebook, instagram etc. So using the same concept video lessons have been developed for each subject to keep the information focused but interesting and engaging.

KAZ Online School have developed multiple types of Video Lessons that can be categorized as follows:

- Lecture based video Lessons: these types of video lessons are based on recorded lecture on a specific topic.
- Presentation Style videos: these types of video lessons are based on recorded lecture with a presentation (different slides) on a specific topic.

- Picture based animated videos: these types of video lessons are based on different pictures that are animated together on subject theme on a specific topic.
- Cartoon based animated videos: these types of video lessons are based on cartoon animations on a specific topic using multiple animated tools.
- Movie based animated videos: these types of video lessons are based on different Islamic movie clips on a specific topic.

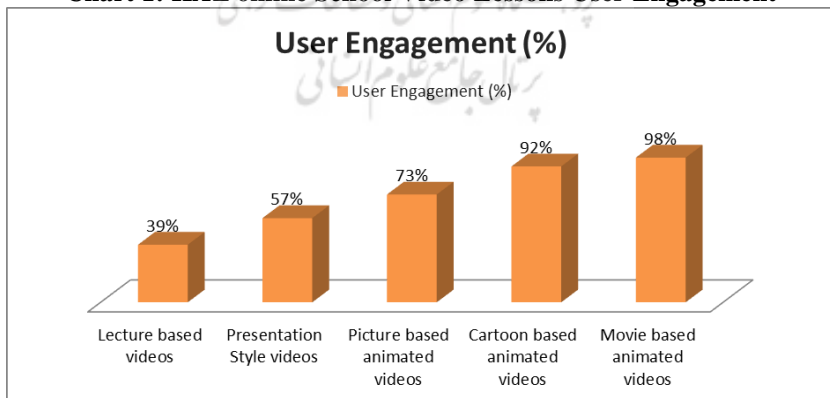
User Analytics/ Big Data

KAZ Online School team have used User Analytics provided by its cloud platform to improve user engagement with content.

For example as stated above multiple type of video lessons were developed and then user engagement for each set of video lessons have been monitored closely so based on the results future video lessons get prepared for better learning.

KAZ School Team took a set of 200 Subscribers and the results of the monitoring were as shown in chart 1 below:

Chart 1: KAZ online School Video Lessons User Engagement



As it is clearly visible from the above chart that the movie/cartoon based animated video lessons kept the learner more engaged as compared to Lecture based videos, this shows the trend a normal learner have today and thus KAZ school team have focused more on development of movie/ cartoon based animated video lessons for future courses.

Two-Way Conversations in E-Learning

With the rapid developed of Social media, two way conversation in E-learning have gained more focused in recent past and this also helps the deficiency of interaction in distance/ E-Learning between Teacher and Student/Learner.

KAZ online School provides a complete visibility to student/learner on its progress through its own personal dashboard and provides a discussion board to converse with KAZ School Teachers directly to ask any query related to the subjects being studied or any issues related to the platform.

Many learners use the discussion board to ask questions that arise their minds while going the lessons and get clarification on different topics.

Some of the queries and feedback through discussion board also help KAZ School team to align and update their video lessons according to the learner requirements to enhance their learning and experience.

Conclusion

- **E-Learning in Islamic Education Helps Develop Deeper Learning Skills**

Throughout their education, children are taught to retain and digest information in a certain way. Precedence is given to listening and absorbing rather than thinking critically.

Effective E-Learning strategies and smart content can change this mindset by helping them develop deeper learning skills and Islamic values in their daily lives.

These skills allow children to approach problem-solving and decision-making tasks with innovation and creativity.

They increase their ability to spot flaws in existing cultural concepts and discover ways to adapt and improve them through true Islamic concepts. As socio-economic issues continue to disrupt global progress, deeper learning skills and Islamic values could present the next generation with the means to ameliorate international relationships and prosperous lives.

Educators must adopt strategies that strengthen deeper and smart learning.

Islamic E-Learning programs like KAZ Online School can offer the best platform for this purpose, delivering 6 unique methods for the development of transferable skills.

1. Fluid Learning Promotes Critical Thinking

For students to engage in critical thinking, the emphasis of your lessons must switch from passive to active learning.

Addressing learners from one focal point won't encourage them to deconstruct the principles of the lesson for themselves. By shifting the teacher's role from deliverer to facilitator, students are presented with the opportunity to draw their own conclusions.

E-Learning reinforces this concept by extending the boundaries of the classroom and enabling online support and 24-hour access to educational resources.

2. Active Participation Reinforces Core Subject Matter

Traditional learning has the tendency to paint core subjects in very broad brushstrokes. E-Learning can alter this paradigm of education and offer learners a chance to transfer what they've learned into reality.

Active participation increases a learner's understanding of core processes and procedures.

For example, the history video lessons on KAZ School helps learner imagine the old times and life style of Ahlulbayt (as) as they are currently use to a totally different life style than 1400 years ago.

For example a learner shared his surprise that Prophet Muhammad used camel as his medium of transportation during Migration to Medina instead of a car.

3. Personalized Lessons Provide Flexible Learning Paths
Bespoke learning strategies are usually the most effective. Children learn at different rates and approach education in varying ways.

Online courses can offer flexible learning paths tailored specifically to each child's needs. While some children will benefit from visual learning activities, others will prefer auditory lessons.

In either case, E-Learning can equip children with the necessary tools for independent learning. Platforms that enable children to master their individuality will ultimately lead to deeper, more confident thinkers.

4. Online Support Encourages Further Research
Implemented correctly, e Learning can break down the barriers between the classroom and the household. Relevant video lessons and screencasts can provide children with a gateway to further research. Online training programs give children the freedom to learn and explore at their pace.

Video content can be paused and resumed as necessary, providing students with an unlimited resource for information retention. This level of educational freedom can encourage children to seek similar online content and begin creating solutions to the discussed issues.

5. Informal Assessments Motivate Learners

Many students are resistant to formal evaluations, and experts agree that standardized testing isn't always a fair representation of a child's intelligence.

Through online training programs, teachers have the opportunity to cultivate and improve deeper learning skills without limiting their students. Teachers can provide guidance and feedback via an online medium and keep track of their students' progress at all times.

A child's ability to understand and investigate a subject can then be determined and adjustments made to optimize their learning experience.

6. Collaborative Learning Prompts Discussion

Traditional learning techniques are often a closed book. While the educator can instill wisdom in their students, there are no reciprocal measures.

Children aren't able to identify which learning strategies best suit their needs, as there is little time for feedback and discussion.

E-Learning allows for more fluid teaching methods. Collaboration is a fundamental component of deeper learning and enables students to view critical problems from a variety of perspectives.

Online training programs that accommodate goal sharing and promote a culture of communication will ultimately deliver a richer learning experience.

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