Establishing models for blended learning environments for Japanese nurses who are trained in Specified Medical Acts

Challenge:

Since 2015, Japanese nurses began training in Specified Medical Acts(SMA) for expanding nurses' role to cope with the aging society. The requirements of training are given from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare(MHLW) such as "training shall consist of lectures, exercise and practical training" and "lectures and exercise may be conducted through correspondence education (e.g. e-learning)." Also, there are requirements of "learning hours" for the learning subjects. Since most learners want to continue their job while learning SMAs, it is too hard to learn so much time without e-learning.

Solution:

We have developed blended learning environments for Japanese nurses who are trained in SMA. The learning environment is based on Moodle and Mahara. In addition, we have taken several methodologies to enhance learner-centered learning such as providing an orientation course for preparing distance learning, and sharing learning portfolio each other. We also provide the follow-up programs for learners who have finished the courses. In the programs they can share and discuss their practice and problems.

Learning Impact Outcomes:

(1) Achievement of a superior realization of other products

In Japan, the raining system for nurses pertaining to SMA have just started since 2015 and there are a few institutions that has own e-learning course. The training system has two parts of subjects: common subjects and categorized subjects. Our institution has made and managed both subjects by e-learning.

(2) Retention and graduation rates

Although there is little information about graduation rates of learners in other institutions and it is hard to compare, our institution has good completion rate.

Return on Investment:

(1) Saving travel time and cost for learners

The learners live in several prefectures in Japan. MHLW is regulated the minimum requirements time of learning as following: 315 hours for common subjects and 15-72 hours per category for categorized subjects. We provide most of the training courses only through e-learning, both common subjects and categorized subjects. It saves learners' travel time and cost a lot.

(2) Sharing of best practices

Some of the learners who have finished our training course make presentations in the academic conferences to share their learning and practices. Faculties also make presentations at some conferences to share about the total system management. Presentations are done not only in Japan but also international conference such as AMEE (Association for Medical Education in Europe).