PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT – WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ONLINE AND TRADITIONAL TEACHER'S TRAINING?

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Abstract

The professional training development of teachers is in constant growth, where the goal of the training is to strengthen the teacher's skills and professional knowledge and to supply them with personal and professional empowerment at work and cooperation with other teachers (Avidav 2000; Krispal, Simon and Frisch, 2008). In addition, technological development has not been overlooked in the training program, significant changes are being made to both the traditional training programs (i.e. face to face) and the online training programs. The technological advances have encouraged the training staff to use ICT materials, computerized assignments, etc. Online training programs are a significant leap forward where there is no personal contact between the instructor and the trainee and between the trainee and the rest of the group. Therefore the question arises is there a difference in the teacher's learning between a traditional training course and an online training course?

The goal of this study is to examine the differences of opinion amongst the trainees between online training courses and traditional training courses. The study was conducted using the qualitative method, and 495 educational workers participated.

The findings of the study indicate a significant and definite advantage of online training over the traditional training method. Analysis of the variable factors concerning the trainee's attitude found four main factors: effectiveness and implementation, climate, ICT and the nature of the tasks. Multiple regression analysis indicates that it is possible to explain the effectiveness of the course based on the changing ICT, climate and nature of the tasks. A significant difference in attitude was found in the climate variable between traditional and online training courses and a significant difference in attitude was found in the ICT variable between traditional and online training courses. From these findings we can conclude that there is a more positive attitude towards online training programs than there is for traditional training programs.

Keywords: Professional development, ICT, online training programs.