

The First International Conference on Open and Distance E-Learning

PUBLIC ODEL: PERSPECTIVES OF DISTANCE EDUCATION AMONG GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AT THE ROXAS CITY LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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The Issues, what are they?

- Government employees are expected to deliver efficient and excellent public service which can only be achieved through extensive informal or formal training, experience, and constant exposure to the 'elements'.
- Many government employees have only learned the ropes while in the actual field; many enter government service despite their academic backgrounds being unsuitable to their jobs.
- Government employees have the opportunity to enrich themselves either through informal or formal training or education.
- Not many government employees pursue formal or informal training.
- Government employees do not pursue further education because of certain issues.
- Government is wanting of professionally and academically competent employees
- Perceptions of distance education are not quite accurate among government employees.

The realities of public servant education

- The Civil Service Commission Qualification Standards (CSCQS) requires certain educational attainments for certain positions, unfortunately, college undergraduates still have a place in the CSCQS as first level public servants.
- Many government employees are in their positions because of the 'padrino system' and because of this, may either be delivering substandard service or have lost faith in continuing education because they have acquired high-paying positions anyway, without continuing education.
- The Roxas City government is no different:
 - It has 698 employees
 - 669 of these are Rank and file, or mid and low level employees
 - Out of the 669, a staggering 48% are either high school graduates or college undergraduates
 - Of the remaining 52% college graduates in the rank and file, only two are pursuing continuing education, one has already dropped out.
 - Some government employees have not considered distance education because of inaccurate perceptions.

The Perceptions

	Odel Viewed		
	From a General Perspective	In terms of Accessibility	In terms of Quality
Interviewee 1	Education that is computer based	More accessible because it does not need physically going to the school; can be accessed at the click of a button; cheaper because students do not have to worry about transportation.	More sophisticated; better quality, only for above average students (learners).
Interviewee 2	Education delivered through the internet	You can study anywhere there are computers; more expensive because you need to buy a computer to be successful in it.	Maybe substandard because there is no one to constantly monitor your education.
Interviewee 3	Education without real classrooms; classrooms are online	You can complete a course without going to an actual school so it is more accessible, physically, but is also inaccessible in a way, because most government employees are not adept at computers and need further training.	The institutions offering it are very good, so maybe the quality of education is the same as regular education offered in these institutions.
Interviewee 4	Education that does not require physical presence; only presence in the web/internet	I find it difficult and inaccessible because I am not good at handling computers and I have no time.	Same quality as ordinary or regular education.
Interviewee 5	Education that uses information technology	Very accessible, just like Facebook that you can access anywhere.	Better quality because of innovative approach to learning.

Future Directions:

- Future research directions towards ODEL IEC aimed at encouraging positive responses from more government employees who will, as earlier discussed, benefit the most from ODEL programs
- A need to mount information, education, or marketing efforts to definitively orient government employees of what ODEL is, what it can offer, and the impacts that it could have on the professional lives of government employees\
- Further research needs to be conducted to determine the true reasons for the tendency of government employees to stay away from distance continuing education albeit general positive perspectives of it

**Madamo gid nga
Salamat!!!**