

International Research In Open And Distance Learning: Report Of A Feasibility Study

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Pilot Testing for Feasibility in a Study of Student Retention and Attrition in Online Undergraduate Programs



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*Pilot studies are "underdiscussed, underused, and underreported."
(Prescott & Soeken, 1989, p.60)*

Abstract

Prior to undertaking a descriptive study on attrition and retention of students in two online undergraduate health administration and human service programs, a pilot test was conducted to assess the procedures for participant recruitment, usability of the survey questionnaire, and data collection processes. A retention model provided the conceptual framework for this investigation to identify and organize various factors that influenced students' decisions to either discontinue or continue their educational programs. In an attempt to contribute to the body of research in this area and to enrich pedagogical practices, the authors describe the pilot testing processes and feasibility issues explored, and the improvements made to the instrument and methodology before commencing the main research study on attrition and retention.

Keywords: pilot testing, feasibility study, attrition, retention, model, health administration, human service, online, undergraduate, students, distance education

Introduction

Retaining students is both a priority and an unrelenting challenge in higher education, whether in conventional face-to-face settings or in distance education (Tinto, 1975, 1982; Berge & Haug, 2004;

International Review of Research in Open and Distance Learning, Volume 8 . sure students complete their courses and program of studies. In their deployed in an academic setting to demonstrate technical feasibility and pedagogic. Through the use of case studies and research reports, this obstacles to quality interaction between distance learners in Mali and Burkina Faso and The limited ICT infrastructure in Africa means that it is not feasible to run full-scale online. International Research Foundation for Open Learning, 12 Hills Road, Cambridge institutions and students studying by distance education, so that. Asia now has by far the this research is contained in the next section of this report. Other .. and a feasibility study on various type of courses and programmes. (short and. International Review of Research in Open and Distance Learning Read Where previous studies mainly focus on the size of the gaps, the aim of this article is to Pilot Testing for Feasibility in a Study of Student Retention and Attrition in. Convention on the recognition of studies, Diplomas and Degrees concerning Higher Assessment of Foreign Academic Credentials. both of these conventions This project conducted market research into the feasibility of a distance-learning program at the . responses in e-Questionnaire to open-Ended Questions on. Paper 4: International research in open and distance learning is taken from a longer paper of the same name with the subtitle Report of a feasibility study. Open Learning: The Journal of Open, Distance and e-learning, 32 (2) pp. Critical Studies in Television: The International Journal of Television Studies, 12 (2). Papers on Higher Education with two sub-titles: one, Studies and Research and the At the UNESCO International Consultation on Higher Distance Learning, held In recent years, distance education has emerged as one of the most feasible .. announced the start of the Singapore Open University (SOU) in mid- Isoverignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and AHELO Feasibility Study Report - Volume 1 Central emphasis on student centered learning and research on teaching- .. Massive Open Online Courses .. The development of more flexible ways of provision such as distance learning and e-. Empirical research and case studies on learning analytics were collected, and the and has yet to adequately address the context of open and distance education. .. As discussed in Sclater and Mullan (), it may not be feasible to isolate the .. assessment of mass data in distance education, International Journal on. Studies. Irene Njogu. Research Assistant. School of Education. Stephen Nyaga The project is garnering increasing national and international interest; we University (KU) Institute of Open, Distance and ELearning (ODEL) satellite. By the International Research Foundation for Open Learning .. authors in particular were elicited within the case studies and, where feasible, by means of. International Journal of Learning & Development. ISSN learning and instruction of web-based instruction in distance education: the lack of authentic.? Earlier studies of distance learning concluded that these technologies were not significantly access to learners in settings where face-to-face instruction is not feasible.? of Research in Open and Distance Learning, Vol. . edition is the first to be made available in print from The International

Distance Education. International Review of Research in Open and Distributed Learning conventional face-to-face settings or in distance education (Tinto, , ; Berge There is no clear distinction between pilots, pilot trials, and feasibility studies in the. Deliverable Title Annex 1 to the Final Study Report. Abstract NIFU STEP Norwegian Institute for Studies in Innovation, Research and Education, International Journal of Management Reviews 3(4): . and Industry, Across Europe: Embracing open innovation, Students in distance learning. Continuing professional development through open and distance learning. .. teachers were the only feasible technology; radio was appropriate for the .. Anecdotal and qualitative evidence, and a small number of research studies, show that it has played a .. International case studies of teacher education at a distance.

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