Evaluation of the Use of Webcasting to Support Nursing Learning *

Boontip Siritarungsri, Chalaporn Suwansumrit

Corresponding author:
B. Siritarungsri
E-mail: Boontip.sir@stou.ac.th

Boontip Siritarungsri RN PhD
School of Nursing, Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University, Pakkret, Nonthaburi, Thailand

Chalaporn Suwansumrit EdD
Office of Educational Technology, Sukhuthai Thammathirat Open University, Pakkret, Nonthaburi, Thailand

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Abstract:

Purpose: This study used a survey to evaluate the achievements of graduate nursing students at Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University (STOU) who undertook learning by webcasting.

Design: Survey research.

Methods: The subjects included nursing graduate students who registered for the nursing course "Graduate Professional Experiences in Nursing Administration" in 2010. Webcasting was used for teaching how to write and present a radio script for health education. A questionnaire was administered, consisting of three parts: personal information, the expense of traveling for tutorial at STOU versus attending the webcast, and the advantages and disadvantages between using conventional orientation teaching (face-to-face) and the webcast format. Descriptive statistics were used, and open-ended questions were analyzed using content analysis.

Main findings: Participants reported that instruction via webcast supported their learning at the highest level, and that they had the highest level of satisfaction with this new way of learning. Participants believed that this technology provided opportunities for graduate students all over Thailand to learn at their own locations and their own convenience. Webcasting also gave them chances to construct online social communities and transfer their health education knowledge to the public, gaining writing and presentation skills in the process. Additionally, this type of learning could reduce participants' travel and accommodation costs by 90%, and so it was perceived as safer since students did not need to travel.

Conclusion and recommendations: Using Webcasting can support graduate nursing students' learning and lead them to achieve in their studies. However, a well-managed technology system needs to be prepared in order to support an increase in learning by webcasting.

Keywords: webcast learning, graduate nursing students