

The future of higher education: Is technology the answer or a problem?

Raymond Archee

Western Sydney University

Abstract

In the 21C, the future of higher education is in flux. Once the domain of an elite class, a university degree is now a routine stage in a student's career path and has been gaining popularity for two decades. The pedagogical method has not changed much since students were mentored by the Greeks: teachers still pontificate and their students still listen to their pearls of wisdom. This process has now become less prized by those students who study entirely online, or those who do not believe the cost of a degree is worth its employment benefits. Technology is seen by some as one solution for rising costs, decreasing enrolments and for engaging 'digital native' students. Higher education needs to make some cautious decisions to minimize diminishing interest, dwindling government incomes and divisive program alternatives. Is technology an answer or a complication in this process?

Key words: higher education, technology, blended learning.