

Rawafid'd First Conference

e-Learning: Today's Challenges _____ and _____ Future Aspirations

Under the slogan of

“For an Innovative, Enlightened Learner”

Held on 24th, 25th of July ,



Conference Recommendations

Under the gracious patronage of the Chair for Woman of Science and Technology in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization UNESCO, and the blessing of Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization ISESCO, and in cooperation with the Hope Makers Initiative in Sudan, and the Center for Educational Research and Development CERD in Lebanon, the Rawafid Educational Symposium in Lebanon opened its first conference:

“E- Learning – Today’s Challenges and Future Aspirations”

in partnership with Jinan University (Lebanon), Malang University (Indonesia), SEGA Group (U.S.A), Sanad Lebanon Association, and the Digital Transformation Network (Lebanon) under the slogan: *For an Innovative, Enlightened Learner*

- The conference commenced with an official session that started with a recital from the Holy Quran.
- The following speeches followed the Lebanese and the Indonesian national anthems:
 - The conference organizers’ speech, delivered by Jinan University Dean of the Faculty of Education, Dr. Rana Bakhit.
 - The guests’ speech, delivered by Professor Dawood Al- Hadabi of the International Islamic University in Malaysia.
 - The speech of the CERD in Lebanon, delivered by its president, Dr. Nada Awijan.
 - Then the speech by the Chair of the Lebanese Parliament Women and Children Committee, Dr. Enaya Ezzedine.
 - The speech of the Director of the UNESCO Chair for Women in Science and Technology, Professor Amal Al-Maatouq, delivered on her behalf by Dr. Iman Al-Maatouq from Sudan.

The conference consisted of six sessions in which 24 specialists in education and technology presented their papers. The conference attendees in virtual space were from 49 countries and totaled a number of 28336, as reported by the statistics of Facebook and Zoom applications. The conference recommendations are issued based on presentations of the panelists who presented over the two days of July 24 and 25, 2020. Moreover, the contributions of the attendees, the comments of experts in education, and the content of the Q&A discussions during the Conference contributed greatly to the following recommendations.



Administrative and Legislative Domain

1. Inviting Arab and Islamic governments to collaborate in developing the required educational tools especially those necessary for electronic and distance learning, which is vital for cultural advancement, prosperity of nations, and achievement of sustainable development.
2. Increasing the budgets specified for e-learning in the relevant ministries, enhancing scientific research, supporting researchers in the fields of information technology, and creating specialized departments concerned with developing e-learning.
3. Adopting distance learning as an alternative to face-to-face instruction granting it academic credibility, legislating its degrees, and issuing decrees that encourage its accreditation and improve its implementation and learning outcomes.
4. Supporting and enhancing legislations and procedures that protect cyber privacy and take into account information and data security, intellectual property rights and communication ethics via the internet.
5. Establishing a non-governmental organization specialized in distance learning in every Arab and Islamic country, with the aim of establishing an Arab union for learning via technology.
6. Establishing an accredited, academic institution that monitors the establishment of standards for distance learning and identifies the characteristics and profile of a classroom teaching session.
7. Adopting a research chair for distance education to embrace educational and scientific projects such as conferences, initiatives, journals and research.
8. Supporting centers that conduct research in the fields of information technology and encourage research and development and the establishment of specialized periodicals specifically in the Arabic language.
9. Providing psychological counseling and academic guidance for students who receive distance learning to contribute to building their characters and protect them from problems and misconduct.
10. Establishing virtual schools and providing the required legislations, qualifications, skills training, and technical equipment.

11. Emphasizing the right of everyone to education and providing educational opportunities for all citizens to achieve fairness, justice, and equality for all.
12. Encouraging ministries of education and institutions concerned with issuing school curricula to design and develop interactive electronic content in accordance with international quality standards and making this content available on free platforms.
13. Calling for the collaboration between different ministries to serve the distance learning community, especially ministries of education, communication, energy, and information.
14. Inviting the ministries of education, research centers and official bodies responsible for making educational policies and formulating educational curricula to adopt the slogan: "Educating for Innovating for All".

Educational and Technical Domains

1. Enhancing the confidence in distance learning for the teacher, student, administration, and parents/guardians.
2. Paying due attention to training and qualification, especially in the fields of information and communications technology, for all stakeholders of the educational process: teachers, learners, administrations, and parents/guardians. Practical experience and field practice during the processes of qualification and transfer of knowledge, skills and values are of special importance.
3. Emphasizing that the role of the teacher is holistic and vital in building the creative, intellectual citizen, keeping in mind that a balance between values, knowledge, and skills is mandatory for the attainment of a functional knowledge and its lofty humanistic aims.
4. Inviting school administrations to adopt a continuous formative assessment for e-learning operations to avoid the accumulation of errors and problems that negatively impact the learning process.
5. Emphasizing the need for interaction during the virtual learning process and enhancing the feedback process. To do this, teachers should be given a role in designing the learners' experience and facilitating their learning as partners in their learning process.

6. Giving due attention to individuals with special needs and school reinforcement/ support programs in e-learning by securing the necessary requirements.
7. Producing educational curricula and accrediting e-learning credits in schools of education, diplomas in education and teacher colleges.
8. Adopting new forms of evaluation characterized by credibility and objectivity, devising tools for formative and summative assessment, and adopting standards that achieve transparency, integrity, and equal opportunities.
9. Creating electronic platforms and securing interactive learning materials while providing opportunities for parents, students, and teachers to access these platforms and materials fairly and equitably.
10. Working to humanize the internet of production in line with the requirements of the Fourth Industrial Revolution to achieve the values of innovation, interdependence, balance, social justice, and sustainable development standards.
11. Ensuring that teachers are able to possess technology and pedagogy in order to create harmony between modern technologies and authentic goals of values.
12. Developing pre-service and in-service teacher preparation programs to enable them to keep abreast of technological developments in education.
13. Encouraging scientific research in the field of technology and cooperation between universities and scientific research institutions.
14. Considering e-learning an indispensable necessity with attention being paid to securing the infrastructure: electricity and the internet in addition to the technical needs of computers, media, and free internet and all that helps in the success of the distance learning process.

Finally, the conference administration was requested to maintain the continuity of this conference by holding it annually and following up on its recommendations and the results of scientific research presented.

Recommendations are translated by Rawafid Educational Symposium

