Determining Human Factor and Technical Parameters for the Optimal Rollout of Online Assessment across Teagasc Education Courses

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Abstract

This aim of this research is to determine the human factor and technical parameters impacting on the implementation of online assessment in Teagasc education courses. Using a co-design methodology, data was obtained from key parties such as education staff and students enrolled on Teagasc education courses. Using key informant interviews, design workshops, staff and student surveys and a pilot online assessment, data was obtained to highlight what is needed in order to implement online assessment.

Results indicate that there are many factors which affect the rollout of online assessment. These factors were highlighted from interviews, design workshops and survey data. The factors include learner type, training, question type and invigilation, system support, flexibility, hardware, software and question bank. These factors need to be considered when implementing online assessment in the future.

It is recommended that in order to implement online assessment effectively, there needs to be a continual feedback and evaluation system in place. This could be carried out in the format of a working group involving teaching staff, IT and curriculum development staff in order to recognise any issues occurring on the ground and to help identify a suitable solution accordingly. Surveys should also be carried out with students taking part in the courses to help identify any improvements that may be needed in terms of end user requirements.