Innovation Curriculum for Elderly Caregivers in the Digital Era

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Abstract

The Covid-19 pandemic that occurred in the digital era has shifted some curricula from traditional methods to new innovations. At the same time, as societies are aging, education for caregivers specializing in elderly care has been increasingly in demand all over the world, including Thailand. To follow social distancing guidelines, a massive open online course (MOOC) model, delivering learning content online to any number of attendees, was introduced for developing the elderly caregivers course. The MOOC contents are also part of the innovation curriculum that emphasizes senior-centered care. Learners can collect credits for each subject of the innovation curriculum, and transfer credits towards other programs of higher education. In this research and development project, the author wanted to explore the current situation of the elderly population in the Thai context along with caregivers' needs, and to develop an innovation curriculum for elderly caregivers in the digital era. This paper explores the concept of the innovation curriculum as a response to individualization in the 21st century and focuses on self-directed learning that leads people to be lifelong learners. This paper also demonstrates and discusses how interested learners can study the elderly caregivers course in MOOC successfully for both theory and practice subjects.

Image

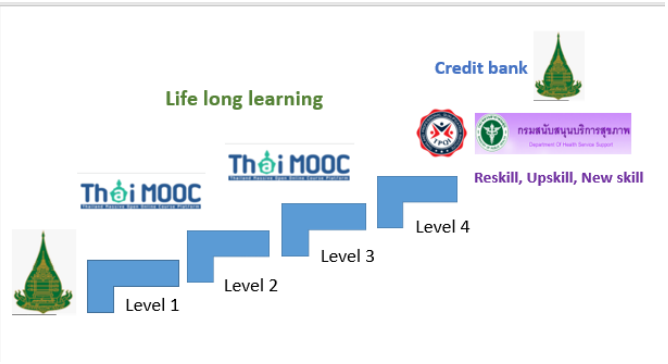


Figure 1 A model of Innovation Curriculum for Elderly Caregivers in the Digital Era

Recent Publications

1. Liyanagunawardena, TR. (2016) Elderly Learners and Massive Open Online Courses: A Review. Interactive Journal of Medical Research. 5(1) DOI: 10.2196/ijmr.4937.
2. Poole,M., Davis, N. & Robinson, L. (2020) Massive Open Online Courses: enhancing caregiver education and support about dementia care towards and at end of life. Age and Ageing. 49 (2): 171–174.
3. Ministry of Higher Education Science Research and Innovation. (2020). Daily report of Covid-19 situation on 22nd August 2020.https://www.nrct.go.ac.th.
4. Sztramko, R. et al. (2021). Online Educational Tools for Caregivers of People with Dementia: A Scoping Literature Review. Can Geriatr J. 24(4): 351–366.
5. Phillips, SS. Et al. (2016). Voices of Informal Caregivers and Community Stakeholders: Whether and How to Develop an Informal Caregiver Training Program. Journal of Community Health. 41: 550 –556.



Boontip Siritarungsri is a Professor Emeritus of Nursing, who was attached with the School of Nursing, Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University (STOU), Thailand, from 1985 to 2020. She received a Doctor of Philosophy from Charles Sturt University, Australia. Currently, Boontip is an independent scholar, invited speaker, consultant, and academic researcher with vast experience in teaching nursing programme through distance learning. She has significantly demonstrated her leadership in distance education, especially in nursing distance education, conducted a number of researches in innovative distance education particularly developing a successful short course training program. She is currently a principal investigator on "Innovation Curriculum for Elderly Caregivers in the Digital Era" at Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University.

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