Plataformas moodle en el aprendizaje de los adultos

Moodle platform in adult learning

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Resumen

En la actualidad, en el campo laboral, se requiere probar las capacidades, habilidades y destrezas para ejecutar una tarea; todo ello, como una consecuencia de la globalización. En el mejor de los escenarios, se requiere de un título universitario para conseguir un empleo, provocando una sociedad credencialista. Es innegable el crecimiento de la matrícula de las universidades en México, con una mayor frecuencia se observa a personas adultas aprovechando la expansión de la educación superior. Los nuevos retos de la universidad: la igualdad de oportunidades y la educación de calidad, obligan a estudiar las características del aprendizaje en la edad adulta, entendiendo las diferencias, oportunidades y expectativas en la aldea global. Con el crecimiento de las tecnologías se ofrece la oportunidad de incorporar las plataformas MOODLE al aprendizaje formal de los adultos. Se pretende hacer una investigación exploratoria de las vicisitudes de la propuesta de una educación hibrida en las licenciaturas semi-escolarizadas.

Palabras Claves: aprendizaje, Andragogía, plataformas MOODLE, credencialismo

Abstract

Currently, in the labor field, required test capabilities, skills, and abilities to perform a task; all this, as a consequence of globalization. In the best-case scenario, required a college degree to get a job, causing a credentialized society. The growth of enrollment of universities in Mexico is undeniable, with a greater frequency is observed for adults taking advantage of the expansion of higher education. The new challenges of the University: equality of opportunity and quality education, is obligated to study the characteristics of learning in adulthood, understanding the differences, opportunities and expectations in the global village. With the growth of

the technology is offered the opportunity to join the formal adult learning MOODLE platforms. Is intended to make an exploratory investigation of the vicissitudes of the proposal of a hybrid education in part-time and flexible graduate studies.

INTRODUCTION

Company Credentialist

The 21st century is characterized by the era of globalization, as a result of this phenomenon, imminently economic, a fierce competitiveness is set in the world of work. Getting a job is required to prove having knowledge, skills and abilities ─competencies approach─ for the execution of a task. This widespread phenomenon, education tries to answer to offering training to get a place in a particular industry. The same competitiveness, requires individuals to find a constant training for work, on the understanding that the school is the natural organisation for the certification of technical knowledge.

For Rafael Feito, (2001) the labour market is characterized by the competition for jobs, for each position is made a desirable candidate profile, among the more candidates there are greater requirements to fill the vacancy. It is here where education plays a central role in the certification of competencies and skills to develop a work with a high degree of acceptance. Then, develops a soft credentialism based on theoretical certifications that are intended to cover in the jobs openings.

The hard credentialism of Randall Collins exposes through the educational credentials is making the right way legitimize the privileges of the social classes, no matter that occasionally they do not have enough knowledge.. In its publication, makes clear reference to increasing the level of education required to get an administrative job in the United States, statistics show these irrefutable facts (Feito, 2001). Currently an increase in

enrollment in universities with the idea promoted on merit, through college and competency certification is observed. Causing increased competition in the labor market, the law of supply and demand.

In the work of Becerra (1982) a clear relationship between income level and degree of studies warning, saying that the human capital theory ─ and in the writings of Becker─ establishes an important effect on the relationship between income, age and degree studies. The same theory seeks to establish through a balance formulas enters investment (cost of studies) and profit (salary). It being understood the importance of completion of studies to develop and enhance the economic capacity of individuals.

In the case of Mexico is established in the National Development Plan (NDP) the importance of education as the cornerstone for economic, social and political development of this country. And it is through universal services and educational offerings also meet the needs of the population. Through quality education, it aims to reduce the differences and empower citizens with equal opportunities. Furthermore, said NDP, it is considered as a backbone of the development of Information Technology and Communication (ICT) to provide easy access to cutting-edge education, trying to insert the nation in a competitive environment.

In particular, higher education in Mexico has evolved satisfactorily in terms of increased enrollment, now is easier access to the school system. University education, today as ever, is facing a historic opportunity to resolve the backlog in terms of coverage and is using ICT as trying to lighten the increased demand for education. As seen in Figure 1, a clear trend of increasing young people in the universities, where a small step in the semiscolarizada education or distance learning is observed shown. Thus the intention of the State to intervene by providing the means and investment, to promote educational inclusion of citizens, to the extent that there is more options for adults or people who left school, they can go is unclear incorporating formal education.

Graph 1. Evolution of the total coverage and the coverage of higher education schooled in Mexico, 2001-2010
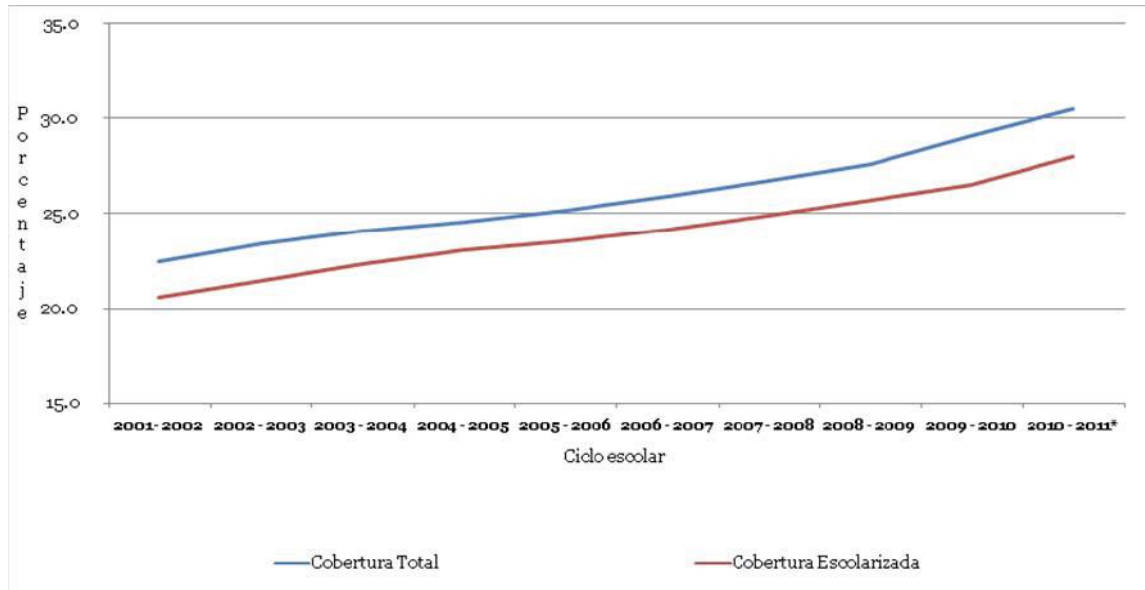
Source: Education in Mexico: Achievements and Challenges (Tuirán, 2011)

It is undeniable the influence of credential, in part, on the theory of human capital to encourage enrollment growth. Also, it is clear that the strategy of the Mexican state is using ICT as a factor of balance and reducing the education gap with vulnerable social sectors. The challenge of the state is to promote quality education so that graduates may have a social mobility in the globalized economy of today.

ICT AS PLATFORMS EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

After the industrial revolution a major change in society is the digital age, where the use of ICT is part of the evolution of human beings. Currently all sectors of society are reconfigured through the use of technology; education is no exception, ICTs are now present in the classroom in a generalized manner. For Alvin Toffler and Martin (1990) represents a technological advance revolution on society, were the first to visualize the impact of ICT on all human activities, conceptualized this move as the third wave or third revolution .

Series product induced by the use of ICT changes, born society of knowledge (SC), defined as "a form of business organization, tecnostructura; characterized precisely by combining management with scientific and educational establishment, at the service of adaptation and

organizational identification than simply maximizing profits through free competition "(De Requena Farré, 2010, p. 81) . The SC is characterized by the volatility of knowledge, ie changes occur in a dizzying society. Understanding the difficulty of integrating ICT into university curricula, as SC is highly innovative, to be updated on this matter requires a large investment of human and material resources. a greater need for training is created and, therefore, reaffirms credentialing society.

To Armengol (2005) the need for the massification of higher education and specialized demands of study not offered at universities, stimulated the creation of many new institutions of higher education to meet the specific needs of certain social sectors as adults, to the extent that these new opportunities were developed, they were reinstating excluded from the college people. There is concern of international organizations such as agencies today: the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and UNESCO to recommend the expansion of national education plans and take into account the use of ICT to be able a flexible global supply structure according to today's globalized and competitive world. A coherent way to achieve this goal of SC is using digital resources for curriculum flexibility and to lower the physical distance between the school and the subjects.

DISTANCE LEARNING

The exponential population growth worldwide and, in some cases, so disrupted by physical or geographical conditions, combined with the need for states to provide them with a quality education to overcome the differences in opportunities, causes a serious problem for society; it is, try to solve it through virtual education.

In particular, the Internet represents a critical step toward reaching a greater number of citizens tool and a means for constant training and a forum for acquiring necessary knowledge in this century. Therefore, distance education it encourages the removal of barriers for marginalized groups giving them opportunities that only through this means can be achieved, as stated:

> The educational program has favored the permanence and roots of youth in their communities of origin, to promote social and economic development of the localities. At the same time, the installation of service centers has allowed young people, in addition to training in knowledge and skills necessary to pursue their higher education, counting, in some cases, with the skills to enter the labor supply. (Maciel & Los Angeles, 2010, p. 31).

To really the results described above are met, it is necessary to adapt teaching practices to the virtual environment and couple them with the characteristics of the technology, to do a Decalogue for the proper functioning of distance education, which is proposed:

1. Breaking the paradigms of traditional education.
2. Incorporate the educational infrastructure to each context.
3. Ensuring greater geographical coverage.
4. Incorporate more members of society.
5. To promote self-education, self-management and skills development.
6. Providing alternative and complementary programs.
7. Be a foothold for the development of society.
8. Be based on innovative projects
9. Facilitate social mobility.
10. Make use and promotion of meaningful learning. (Rivera, Rivera & Ramos, 2010, p.

In principle, it began to develop virtual learning or learning network was in virtual learning communities and it defines Salinas, cited by Mayor as "those which are characterized by the culture of participation, collaboration, acceptance of diversity and willingness to share "(Mayor, 2006, P. 44).

Virtual communities have the following characteristics: not only the faculty of students, teachers and parents of a single institution are enclosed, but there are many experiences of virtual learning communities where members who participate in them are from different

communities or even nations, which gives the virtue of diversity and multiculturalism to e-learning:

> In the early twenty-first century, teaching disciplines at all levels and modalities has been affected by the progress of scientific and technological research. Innovation in technology, privatization and commercialization of knowledge and the growing social demand for education proposals, universities have caused an impact on sustainable development programs related to the provision of educational services. Thus, the virtual education uses information, knowledge and means to promote dialogue by mid didactic communication process between actors of virtual training (Garduño, 2006, p. 1).

VIRTUAL LEARNING PLATFORM IN EDUCATION

Unquestionably, at the beginning of XXI century the use of educational virtual platforms have gained ground in knowledge management within this category are management systems Learning (Learning Management Systems, LMS) as tools that grow on par with ICT as its name implies; they are more than virtual learning environments and become management systems and knowledge management.

Two key elements to consider in the management of LMS are: self-regulated learning; where the student has to have the ability to make decisions about learning to be, in addition to the manner and time of each purchase learning and on the other hand should consider the cognitive style of each student. (Uribe & Bornacelly Melgar, 2007)

One feature of using the LMS, according to Osorio (2003) is the permanent education and thus redefines the words of master Paulo Freire based education and life are acts unfinished. Therefore, the adoption of an educational platform would bring lasting benefits to the student, along with capabilities for meaningful learning for life.

Obviously, virtual learning platforms represent significant savings in operating costs of for governments, in Mexico the government has no direct interference in higher education, but a clear and undeniable trend is seen to favor the use of virtual education in university curricula, through various mechanisms of use of educational policy for the school virtualization space.

Why Moodle?

Having analyzed the key points regarding the virtual platforms, understanding the urgency and necessity of use, we proceed to review the option of Moodle virtual learning platform to integrate all educational technologies in Mexico under the same scheme.

Moodle is a content management system (CMS). A software package designed to help teachers to easily create quality online courses. Easy to install and update; flexible, customizable context of each state, county or city.

First MOODLE is chosen to be free license in addition to the large number of additional items (plugins) that could be integrated, not limiting the activities of teachers, and to have thousands of developers activities and support to solve problems .

Besides being versatile and multipurpose, motivating for both students and for teachers, it facilitates remote communication. It allows the teacher to decide which activities to include in the course (forums, chats, messages, queries, calendar, lessons, puzzles, links to websites or documents in different formats), it is useful to supplement subjects and establish collective meeting points (rooms virtual working groups or research, school for parents, tutoring, etc.)

It provides teachers complete control over course content and supplement information about jobs and the use of various tools, in addition to facilitating communication with students and colleagues.

Student is a source of motivation varied content, attractive, flexible hours and permanent availability of resources; immediate feedback on many activities, including assessment, group work without leaving home; accompanying feeling, ease of communication with their peers.

To Linarez (2011) there is an obvious advantage in learning through virtual platforms, in a quasi-experimental study shows that using virtual platforms a free, meaningful learning is achieved and promotes learning autonomy. In addition, knowledge motivates students to continue learning.

FEATURES ADULT LEARNING

The main role of institutions of higher education is to train professionals for work, people capable of carrying out a task and fulfill social responsibility ─aunque should never be limited to this función─ to promote conditions for quick job placement. The flourishing of higher education is to respond to a society thirsting for knowledge. There are those who for various reasons could not integrate educational spaces at the time, are now returning home to start or resume preparation, taking advantage of current conditions: expansion of educational opportunities and advancement of ICT.

Always had he thought that learning skills of adults were undermined with the passage of time, it was not until the recognized theorist Vygotsky (1984) Education showed that adults after age 25 have the ability to learn, following its publication a number of concerns about developed to know how were the characteristics of adult learning, science born one questioned ─termino aún─ called Andragogy.

For Alcalá, (1997) Andragogy, "is the science and art, being part of the Antropogogía and being immersed in the Permanent Education, develops through a practice based on the principles of participation and horizontality" (p. 19). Given the maturity of adults, suggests that cognitive processes of adult foster creativity, provide greater experience in the construction of knowledge in the classroom, they are more focused on the pursuit of meeting the objectives and thus They have competitive advantages over younger students.

In today's globalized context of the XXI Century, higher education faces great challenges as important: the criticism of the competence approach, the lack of generation of new knowledge, the favor and stagnant privileged classes of plans and programs of study. In this regard, it is intended by the incorporation of ICT and its integration in the educational process can be answered by a revolution in teaching and learning to promote learning in general, and specifically for adults (Alcalá, 2003).

In a global context, education represents a concept inherent in human beings, are a combination that grows disasociable parallel to the history of mankind. The international bodies like UNESCO propose a permanent or lifelong education, recognize the capacity of human beings, on the understanding that never stop learning. Thus universities recognized

in their role to be the body of knowledge socialization, where human beings should always be in contact with the school, either through direct or formal education.

Grandmaster Paolo Friere always showed a special interest in adult education in its many texts makes memories on literacy of workers and peasant classes ─representadas by adultos─ always looking for ways to upgrade their social role in the release Man, their teaching methods focus on learning and freedom rests on the level of understanding of the reality of adults, only believes in the possibility of building just social structures through active participation of adults in release process, it is clear that laid the foundations for popular education and for adults (Delizoicov, 2008).

Most European countries ─ and Mexico is not the excepción─ a phenomenon of inversion of the population pyramid, that is, more and more people seniors is presented. Universities have to hosting this wave of people in their areas of training, becoming an obligation to study this phenomenon, which has the following characteristics:

> • Expressed in this paper, it should be taken into account to understand and consider, with interest and great responsibility that older adults are not an insignificant marginal strata of society, but constitute a very important social group that investigated urgently needed , planned, addressed and educated.

> • The physical development of man reaches its peak around the age of thirty (30) years, but the growth of the human mind knows no bounds.

> Many older adults increasingly change their jobs and professions and continue to progress in many ways especially when they want to have a new access to education.

> • Every older adult in a learning situation reenter the educational process with a proper and accurate model of reality, but also brings together, interests, needs, concerns, objectives and goals.

> • Learning strategies aimed at adult participants seniors, must be compatible with the reality of the group and must be properly applied for the purpose of promoting creative and experiential activity participants to consolidate their interests, goals and objectives.

> • Many educators believe that everything they will do in teaching is to impart information, presented as a model by the participants or to train people to perform certain functions (Alcalá, 2001).

Speaking of people returning to the classroom, talking about second chances. Returnees do with the firm conviction to learn and lost time. In addition, attending school, for them, means more effort is promoted through greater satisfaction of achievement. This interest will be defined as a motivation to the learning process, because the adult can, any more than a child, plan actions which desired results are not achieved immediately becoming extrinsic motivations, which can be highlighted the following:

a) Social promotion is only possible while in possession of a certain cultural level and actively participating in social commitments. The complexity and competition in our societies marginalize those who can not keep up with the events that increasingly demand deep and broad information.

b) professional adaptation, as a specific part of the social adaptation, in the same proportion as the labor strikes in modern life.

c) Resolution of specific problems that deserve specific and specific knowledge. Consider, for example, on issues such as: request official documents, family planning, disease prevention, union rights, family management, etc. (Lopez, 1982)

METHODOLOGY

According to (Hernández, S. et al, 2010), the case studies can be addressed from the perspective of qualitative, quantitative or mixed type. Some theorists set several disadvantages to the use of case study as research methodology especially those related to the small size of the study subjects, ie the size of the sample.

To establish an approach to respond to the above concerns, a focus on quantitative court decided since it and the use of statistical techniques can give you a reliability data collection and to reasonably validate the findings to be presented, because according to (Hernández et al, 2010), the characteristics of this approach are evidentiary sequences, they seek control of the process to be as objective as possible, and not affect the observable phenomena. The quantitative approach, tries to approach the reality objectively to offer an explanation of the problem.

The University Center of Sonora, San Luis Rio Colorado campus (Cuson) is an institution of higher education that has 628 students in three shifts, offers degrees in Foreign Trade and Customs; Communication and Advertising; Architecture, Graphic Design, Psychology, and Law. It is located in San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora; in northwestern Mexico, with official recognition and validity in all their runs in the town lives with two public and two private universities. With 15 years in the local market, has a staff of 68 teachers of course, the student population attending is a lower middle class socioeconomic level, between 17 and 75 years of age. With a curriculum continuously called quarterly, for the completion of a degree in three years and four months.

For four years the curriculum model called business, which involves taking intensive classes on Fridays and Saturdays developed. In order to meet the educational needs of adults who are currently working; It was precisely this shift that was chosen as a sample for the realization of this study.

A sample of a non-probabilistic and arbitrarily, which consisted of a group of 50 students of various races shift the business, accounting for 7.96% of the student population was determined. See Table 1

Tabla 1 Edad de los alumnos empresariales

	N	Mínimo	Máximo	Media
Edad	51	20	59	32.24
N válido (según lista)	51			

Fuente: elaboración propia

The average age of students is 32, whereas the average age according to the chronological conditions should be approximately 21 years. Taking a lag of about 12 years that left school.

Tabla 2 Tiempo que dejo pasar el alumno antes de reingresar a la escuela

	N	Mínimo	Máximo	Media
¿Cuánto tiempo dejaste de estudiar?	51	0	30	9.20
N válido (según lista)	51			

Fuente: elaboración propia

As data collection instrument the questionnaire, which consists of two sections, the first one corresponding to the section on general information on each case study, while the second is the perception of learning and staying in was used school.

To (Alvarez, 2008), an instrument is useful only if it collects the information for which it was designed, but statistically reliable if no measurement errors and the responses are consistent, having various indices such as Cronbach's alpha measuring the correlation between the responses. Cronbach Alpha index ranges between 0 and 1, with a value close to 1 provides greater consistency in the answers and a value close to 0 sets an inconsistency in the responses, which is considered statistically greater value to .80 is acceptable.

Therefore, the application is deemed reliable questionnaire to obtain a score of 0.926 point higher compared to 0.8

Tabla 3 Análisis de fiabilidad

Alfa de Cronbach	N de elementos
.926	11

Fuente; elaboración propia

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF RESULTS
85.7% of students are motivated by getting a college degree in every race a favorable opinion significantly shown.

Tabla 4 me siento motivado por lograr obtener un título universitario

			Me siento motivado por lograr obtener un título universitario				Total
			Totalmente en Desacuerdo	Sin Opinión	De Acuerdo	Totalmente de Acuerdo	
Carrera	Derecho	Recuento	1	0	0	15	16
		% del total	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	30.6%	32.7%
	Educación	Recuento	1	1	1	6	9
		% del total	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	12.2%	18.4%
	Psicología	Recuento	1	0	1	12	14
		% del total	2.0%	0.0%	2.0%	24.5%	28.6%
	Administración	Recuento	0	0	0	3	3
		% del total	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	6.1%	6.1%
	Otra	Recuento	1	0	0	6	7
		% del total	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	12.2%	14.3%
Total		Recuento	4	1	2	42	49
		% del total	8.2%	2.0%	4.1%	85.7%	100.0%

Fuente: elaboración propia

It can be stated categorically that students are motivated to be in school, and see a second chance to get a college degree, and times are right to do so. This creates a perfect setting for learning is created.

65.3% of students are happy to attend school, not having a significant difference in the gender of the participants, 24.5% of students is agreed, 2.0% had no opinion and 8.2% of students do not cause happiness attending school

Tabla 5 Soy feliz por asistir a la escuela

			Soy feliz por asistir a la escuela				Total
			Totalmente en Desacuerdo	Sin Opinión	De Acuerdo	Totalmente de Acuerdo	
Género	Masculino	Recuento	3	0	9	15	27
		% del total	6.1%	0.0%	18.4%	30.6%	55.1%
	Femenino	Recuento	1	1	3	17	22
		% del total	2.0%	2.0%	6.1%	34.7%	44.9%
Total		Recuento	4	1	12	32	49
		% del total	8.2%	2.0%	24.5%	65.3%	100.0%

Fuente: elaboración propia

It is clear that the university meets the expectations of the students in the sense of being a space for the socialization of knowledge, and a way to generate personal satisfaction in students. In this sense, the university is fulfilling its social and academic goal.

Regarding the question of whether age is a competitive advantage over my colleagues, 7.8% of respondents strongly disagree, 9.8% disagree, no opinion 13.7%, 37.3% disagree and 31.4% fully agreed (see table 6).

Tabla 6 Siento que mi edad es una ventaja competitiva en relación a mis compañeros

			Siento que mi edad es una ventaja competitiva en relación a mis compañeros					Total
			Totalmente en Desacuerdo	En Desacuerdo	Sin Opinión	De Acuerdo	Totalmente de Acuerdo	
Género	Masculino	Recuento	3	2	5	10	8	28
		% del total	5.9%	3.9%	9.8%	19.6%	15.7%	54.9%
	Femenino	Recuento	1	3	2	9	8	23
		% del total	2.0%	5.9%	3.9%	17.6%	15.7%	45.1%
Total		Recuento	4	5	7	19	16	51
		% del total	7.8%	9.8%	13.7%	37.3%	31.4%	100.0%

Fuente: elaboración propia

Although most of the students believe that age is a competitive advantage, the difference is not significant. Therefore, actions should be taken in the school to strengthen the principles of Andragogy in students.

7.8% of students strongly disagreed that has the maturity to learn for yourself, 5.9% disagree, 5.9% have no opinion, 25.5% agreed and 54.9% strongly agree.

Tabla 7 A mi edad me considero una persona lo suficientemente madura para lograr aprender por mí mismo.

			A mi edad me considero una persona lo suficientemente madura para lograr aprender por mí mismo.					Total
			Totalmente en Desacuerdo	En Desacuerdo	Sin Opinión	De Acuerdo	Totalmente de Acuerdo	
Género	Masculino	Recuento	2	2	3	6	15	28
		% del total	3.9%	3.9%	5.9%	11.8%	29.4%	54.9%
	Femenino	Recuento	2	1	0	7	13	23
		% del total	3.9%	2.0%	0.0%	13.7%	25.5%	45.1%
Total		Recuento	4	3	3	13	28	51
		% del total	7.8%	5.9%	5.9%	25.5%	54.9%	100.0%

Fuente: elaboración propia

According to Table 7 students are considered able to learn for themselves due to the maturity which gives them their experiences, promoting a reliable way the learning process.

8% of students said they strongly disagree with regard to their capacity for learning, while 12% mentioned agree; Finally 80% expressed full agreement and a person capable of learning are considered.

Tabla 9 Me considero una persona capaz de aprender

			Me considero una persona capaz de aprender			Total
			Totalmente en Desacuerdo	De Acuerdo	Totalmente de Acuerdo	
Género	Masculino	Recuento	3	3	21	27
		% del total	6.0%	6.0%	42.0%	54.0%
	Femenino	Recuento	1	3	19	23
		% del total	2.0%	6.0%	38.0%	46.0%
Total		Recuento	4	6	40	50
		% del total	8.0%	12.0%	80.0%	100.0%

Fuente: elaboración propia

Almost mostly students believe they have the capabilities and skills for the knowledge of the subjects and thus meet the learning objectives.

FINDINGS

Students are motivated to attend school, believe they have a historic opportunity to excel by obtaining a college degree. Motivation is a key to achieving the learning feature, as it was noted in the theoretical space, the motivation is present generally in adults who attend school, together with the motivation was described by the use of platforms; It concludes: the conditions for including a platform MOODLE are ideal for motivation.

Stay in school provides a suitable degree of satisfaction to students, they feel the desire to learn, know their abilities to learn, therefore, it is desirable to encourage the use of the platform, they are considered autonomous learning and in any case, autonomy is a prerequisite for the installation of a platform.

Students believe that the contents are appropriate, also like the idea of keep learning. You can take this momentum to successfully implement a Moodle platform with widespread success in its acceptance, besides being an auxiliary tool to your face classes, leading to further communication with the master in the week are not present in the classroom.

PROPOSAL

Implement a MOODLE platform as a learning tool to weekend classes where teachers can leave extra class activities that promote student learning. It also can be a communication tool that does not distract the students, as they could be social networking.

It is proposed to implement a training course for teachers MOODLE shift business to generate an awareness of the benefits of this implementation process and raise awareness about the benefits of learning. Also that they, in charge of training the students on their use.

It is important to give a training course for teachers and students on Andragogy to understand the benefits of learning characteristics into adulthood, and sensitize teachers to use appropriate measures to generate greater academic performance of students strategies. Generating at all times an atmosphere conducive to meaningful learning, follow the motivation and satisfaction is increased by being in school.

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