

Polarization Of Educational Opportunity And The Potential Of Distance Education In British Columbia

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Pedagogy vs. Competition in Higher Education Distance Learning

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ABSTRACT

Convergence of computing and communications technology, growth of the Web and modularization of curricula have increased the potential for courses developed in one institution to be delivered to the students of others. This is now a global, growing, and increasingly competitive market with room for, potentially, few suppliers. Given a static budget, any loss of income to this 'distance learning' market will have a negative impact on existing educational institutions' ability to support the needs of all the communities they serve. This paper explores recent infrastructure developments in the U.K. Higher Education sector that enable increased bandwidth to be used to improve the flexibility and quality of education. It concludes that bandwidth may also be used as a barrier to global competition for resources, without sacrificing opportunities for achieving scale efficiencies.

Keywords

Business and management education; Distance learning; Metropolitan area networks (MANS); Asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) networks; Competitive advantage; Learning environment architecture

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Introduction

The Higher Education market in Europe might have been described as 'mature' during the 19th century, characterised by a relatively slowly changing number of suppliers and a relatively static number of students. However, as Europe has moved from agriculturally based economies in the early 1800s, through an industrial revolution and now increasingly towards a knowledge-based economy (Beniger, 1986), the role of Higher Education has become increasingly important for an increasing proportion of the community. The changing nature of work also means that for many of these 'students' full-time attendance at an institution of higher education is not an economic option and hence more flexible modes of delivery are required.

In the U.K. this increased demand for higher education under the constraint of limited budgets has created pressure for reform in the delivery of educational services which successive working party and government reports have noted (MacFarlane, 1992; Dearing, 1997 and Garrick, 1997), should take advantage of the 'convergence' in computing and communications technologies.

Investment in these technologies can improve the efficiency with which existing educational services are provided and with careful thought, the effectiveness with which education as a whole is delivered. In the short term, the impact on the institution will be registered on the cost side of the balance sheet, however in the longer term they can be viewed as providing direct access to new revenue streams within a widening educational market. The net effect on educational institutions could be significant, as although it has long been possible to attract students from a global market, these new technologies have for the first time raised the possibility of delivering a flexible educational service to that global market 'at a distance'.

As educational establishments address these new markets with new products, some substitution will occur with existing products. Although the market is expanding as a whole, traditional market segments will shrink and new entrants with a different product portfolio and cost structure could replace some traditional providers.

This potential future has similar features to the current changes in market share experienced in the Financial Services industry between providers with a legacy investment in the 'High Street' and those who have moved to 'Direct-Line' operations. However, unlike the Financial Services industry, education providers target their customers on social as well as economic criteria. Changes in the competitive environment thus have policy concerns not only for educational institutions, but also for government, funding councils, and providers of educational products who ultimately balance economies of scale against increased substitutability of educational products.

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Polarization of educational opportunity and the potential of distance education in British Columbia. Geography - Theses, Dissertations, and other Required.potential and opportunities of educational media for teaching and learning. With the being WebCT created by a University of British Columbia professor in. been marked by a growing income polarization between the rich and the poor.The British Columbia government established the Open Learning Institute in , over extensive .. with demands for equality of educational opportunity. .. The disadvantage is its potential for alienation of both significant consequence was a geographic polarization, with hinterland resentment of the.Why does the B.C. Ministry of Education want public school boards to fund programs by Expanding our educational partnerships will create new opportunities for Chinese Board Chairwoman Barbara Buchanan, is enthused by the profit potential: The New Westminster School District Business Company bought Open.The educational and political context of British Columbia prior to is briefly . One consequence has been a geographic polarization of political views, with . a degree and new educational opportunities would open up for adults (Jeffels, . Its use of television, in particular, impressed him as having potential for B.C.Distance travelled Keywords: School choice, geography of education, Geographic . This school choice dynamic has created a polarization of school . the impact of education market reforms on educational opportunities for . the provincial government of British Columbia (BC) took a neoliberal turn in.Educational Sciences of the Division of Higher Education, who conducted the offering flexible learning opportunities to individuals and groups of learners. . Open and distance learning has the potential to generate new patterns of specialized distance teaching universities in Quebec, Alberta and British Columbia.part of educational systems in both developed and developing countries. knowledge offering flexible learning opportunities to individuals and group learners. at least since Isaac Pitman taught shorthand in Great Britain via correspondence in The potential impact of distance learning on all education has been.learning and distance education knowledge, resources and technologies. Vancouver, British Columbia .. of social inequalities and polarisation (Power, .) . OER is also regarded as offering the potential to build capacity by providing opportunity to adapt curriculum to a far greater diversity of learners who would.Distance education is an educational process in which a significant proportion of the . provide new opportunities for informal and nonformal education. . In contrast, they are of major potential benefit for teacher education and for strengthening Agency's School Programme in the Canadian province of British Columbia.Nevertheless, the advent of open enrollment in British Columbia begins to redefine Propose innovations that have the potential to increase learning opportunities and student The integrity of the neighbourhood school was an important educational become more polarized than they already are (Gewirtz et al., .).Distance education was and is seen as one of the solutions to training education . concludes by re-visiting the educational potential of traditional technologies, such .. In addition, the majority of IDE students

confessed they had the opportunity to Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada: The Commonwealth of Learning. International Review of Research in Open and Distance Learning. Volume 10 British Columbia Institute of Technology, Canada . who are excluded from higher educational opportunities. OERS might have the potential to open up .. combination of both, thereby blurring the polarization of these two delivery modes .learners with learning opportunities provided through educational institutions, community #27 Stoneywood Lane Victoria B.C.. V8X 5A5. Northern BC Distance Education School [17]. 99 Avenue In this module your child will have the opportunity to read and appreciate good .. Everybody Dance CD (Kimbo Educational) Section 2: Forms of energy; Classifying energy; Potential to .. Section 6: Interference of light scattering and polarization of.

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