

Abstract

The twenty-first century has begun with radical changes that have conspicuously posed many challenges and opportunities to build a society of knowledge as a key component of building the future. Besides, contemporary reality demands a new kind of education that is more in line with the vast cognitive and informational revolution in a society of knowledge where technology and its uses manipulate the minds of many educators. From what has been previously mentioned thinking to seek alternative ways of traditional education can benefit from technological data, including virtual universities, which managed to overcome the temporal and spatial boundaries to become a university without walls, papers or a campus.

Problem of the Study:

The study problem is summarized in the following main question:

What is the proposed vision of the Virtual University in the Arab Republic of Egypt in the light of some international experiences?

The main question is divided into the following sub-questions:

- 1- What is the meaning of the Virtual University and what are its characteristics, justification for its establishment and criteria for distinguishing it?
2. How have some countries followed to establish virtual universities?
3. What are the most important initiatives and orientations aimed at the Virtual University in the Arab Republic of Egypt and what are the challenges facing it?
- 4- What are the similarities between the Egyptian efforts and the international experiences regarding the establishment of the Virtual

University and the proposed vision of the Virtual University in the Arab Republic of Egypt in the light of these international experiences and in proportion to the characteristics and conditions of the Egyptian society?

Objectives of the Study:

Through the discussion of the study of the Virtual University topic, the study will seek to achieve the following objectives:

- Identifying the Virtual University; its philosophy, patterns, and criteria of distinguishes.
- Determining some of the principles and mechanisms of the Virtual University through comparing some of the experiences of international universities in this field.
- A proposed conception of a Virtual University in Egypt.

Importance of the Study: The importance of the study is as follows:

- The study provides a theoretical basis for the interest of Virtual University.
- The study deals with the monitoring and analysis of the experiences of some of the leading countries in this field to determine the requirements necessary for the establishment of a Virtual University in keeping with contemporary global trends.
- In terms of the practical importance of the study, they contribute effectively or useful in the proper scientific planning for the recruitment of the Internet and the establishment of the virtual Egyptian university.
- Virtual University project is a leap for higher and university education in Egypt.

Methodology of the Study: The study used the comparative approach because it is the most appropriate and comprehensive method to study different systems in a comparative way.

Plan of the Study: The study plan went according to the following steps:

- The first step (general framework of study): It includes (introduction, literature review, problem of the study, objectives of the study, importance of the study, methodology of the study, limits of the study and terminology of the study).
- The second step: it tackles the meaning of the Virtual University, its characteristics, its justifications and its criteria of distinguishes.
- The third step: Presentation of the experiences of Australia, Malaysia and Finland.
- The fourth step: Egypt's orientation towards virtual education, initiatives and challenges.
- The Fifth Step: It dealt with the comparative analysis of the experiences studied, as well as the proposed vision of the Virtual University at the Arab University of Egypt.

Recommendations of the Study:

The study found out a proposed scenario for an Egyptian Virtual University taking into consideration a number of important points:

- The clear definition of the virtual education and its objectives, which takes into consideration the needs of its beneficiaries and employees in order to follow this philosophy of an obviously clear understanding of the philosophy of virtual education.
- Paying attention to media awareness of virtual education and focusing on its importance and characteristics.

- Providing programs and training courses for the majority of university faculty members to train them on how to convert traditional courses into electronic courses as well as organizing and presenting them.
- Establishing a clear policy for identifying funding sources and spending items to ensure stability in funding sources.
- Encouraging cooperation between the Egyptian Virtual University, the foreign open universities and concluding agreements with them, and exchange experiences with them.
- Drawing up future plans, allowing the expansion or development of virtual education programs or the introduction of new programs and disciplines.

Suggestions for Future Research:

- Conducting comparative studies between the efficiency of the outputs of traditional education and the virtual one.
- Sources of funding for virtual university education.
- Reliability in virtual education.
- Virtual education and governance of Egyptian universities.