Diversifying MOOC Towards Rural Development: Exploring the Affordances through Participatory Approach
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MOOC has revolutionized and disrupted both traditional and distance learning in terms of delivery and content.

MOOC continues to flourish because of the growing need for a more flexible, affordable, and practical mode of learning in higher education (Cairneagle Associates 2014)
However in the Philippines, MOOC has slow adoption among universities and education providers.
TESDA, the government agency in the Philippines tasked to manage and supervise technical education and skills development, offers the first MOOC to make technical education more accessible to Filipinos.
As an emerging economy, the Philippines should not take for granted the agricultural and rural sector as this sector plays a very important role in the country’s growth and development.
Objectives of the Study

• a) develop a set of criteria to evaluate MOOC which diversified into agriculture through participatory approach; and

• b) identify both the positive and negative affordances of MOOC and how it can contribute towards rural development.
Methodology

- Participatory approach of evaluation
- Thematic analysis
Evaluation Criteria

Accessibility
Design
Contextualizing to the local Filipino culture
Positive Affordances

Convenience of the MOOC for students
Improvement of Farming Methods
Cost Effective Training for Farmers
Contribution towards Rural Development
MOOC as a Source of Information
Negative Affordances

Technical Language and Jargons Used
Lacks Practical and Hands-on Opportunities
No feedback mechanism
Lack of Visuals

Fruit Grower

Module 1: Lesson 2: Staking the Site → Planting Systems

Planting Systems

Square System

The planting system describes the arrangement of trees in the orchard or plantation. The proper arrangement of the trees will help facilitate the different operations such as weeding, fertilization, spraying, etc., which are necessary for the trees to successfully grow.

The selection of the planting system will depend on:
1. Varieties/species of fruit or plantation crops used
2. Whether or not to use filler
3. As well as kind of filler trees (papaya or banana)
4. Cropping system (monocropping or multiple cropping)
5. Topography of the land
6. The degree of the farm mechanism
7. The preference of the grower

Previous Topic: Introduction
Next Topic: Planting Distance
Conclusion

The Philippine government is off to a good start in utilizing ICT particularly the MOOC in order to enhance rural development.

The identified positive affordances can be enhanced to fully maximize the potential of MOOC for rural development.

The negative affordances can be addressed by improving its design and content and carefully taking into account the target beneficiaries.

The study showed that students welcome technological innovation towards rural development.
Salamat po!