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THE EXPECTED EFFECT OF ACTIVATING ACCOUNTING LEARNING COMMUNITIESIN THE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITIES

بحث مقدم من د. تامر على النشار

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Abstract: The International Universities (IU) are witnessing new trends in the education field, noticeably, what is so called learning communities. Learning communities rely on clustering classes around interdisciplinary theme and it coordinate two or more courses into a single program. In the business administration studies, accounting is considered the heart of various sciences such as, financial management, engineering, pharmacies, medicine, education, mathematics, statistics, biotechnology, and computer sciences, where it all benefit from accounting, and accounting benefits from all of these sciences alike. Consequently, practitioners in these fields will be benefited. Accordingly, the demand for our accounting learning communities has arose to satisfy the exchangeable needs among students, educators, and practitioners in various fields. This paper reviewed a sample of responses from 13 practitioners representing various practices including accounting practice in Egypt (Sample B). Where they were asked to respond to a questionnaire regarding the activation of accounting learning communities over the Egyptian universities, giving an indication for what could be applied in the IU in the same regard. This paper uses Descriptive statistics and Kruskal - Wallis tests to analyze responses. In order to reflect the value of raising a question of what is the expected effect of activating accounting learning communities in the IU, the survey study in this paper to be implemented to examine the expected impact of activating accounting learning communities in the IU over students, educators, and practitioners in various fields, based on a questionnaire to be provided to them (Sample A). Empirical results indicated, primarily, the significance expected effect of activating accounting learning communities in the IU based on the responses of the 13 practitioners' descriptive statistics, and unobvious expected effect based on the Kruskul - Wallis test's result i therefore, more questionnaires to be provided to larger number of students, educators, and practitioner, (Sample A&B), accompanied with a prove of persuading future vision of polices, practices and relations to be implemented by the IU to help measure positive effect of activating accounting learning communities.

Key words: Accounting learning communities, Egyptian universities, The International universities.

Data Availability / Data are available from the author

I. Introduction

Learning communities are a variety of approaches that link or cluster classes, during a given term, often around an interdisciplinary theme, and enroll a common cohort of students [Gabelnick, F. & et. el., 1990] .Thus, learning communities are also considered an approach to curriculum design which coordinates two or more courses into a single program of instructions [Jean MacGregor & et. el., 2002]

It is important because, within learning communities the shared interest in certain outcomes parallels with the phenomenon of shared interest observed in theoretical bodies of work such as communities of practice. [Lave & wanger, 1991, Wenger, 1998]. It represents an international restructuring of students' time, credit, and learning experiences to build community and to foster more explicit connections

among students and their teachers, and among disciplines [Gablenick, & et.el., 1990] provides a richer range of learning experience to our students and contribute to a more vibrant and supportive campus environment for students and faculty alike.

Learning communities could be structured as programs in which a small cohort of students enrolls in larger classes that faculty do not coordinate, intellectual connections and community - building often take place in an additional integrative seminar, also, programs of two or more classes linked thematically or by content, which a cohort of students takes together. The faculty do plan the program collaboratively, also programs of course work that faculty members team teach. The course work is embedded in an integrated program of study [Jean MacGregor & et.el., 2002].

Applying learning communities to the field of accounting is expected to achieve various benefits for both students and educators, such as: the academically and socially growing among students and educators in any accounting program, and, the participation in various academic events and activities with people from a variety of backgrounds and programs.

Various models of learning communities to be applied in the field of accounting, relying on mixing programs of accounting and its related sciences, this mixed programs and structure comprise models of learning communities based on the importance and necessity of meeting the needs of students and educators, which in turn will lead to enhancing and developing skills such as team work, communication, problem solving, and critical thinking.

Accordingly, the response of accounting students as well as the accounting educators will be affected, where they may accept the learning communities' programs and structure or they may oppose it in regards of challenges that may be available and encountered by students and educators as well.

This paper measures the initial effect of activating learning communities over accounting students and educators through raising questions that are significantly related to their opinions and trends, through a questionnaire to be distributed, firstly, to 13 practitioners of various fields, and, secondary, to students and educators of undergraduate , post graduate , and continuing education in the AUC.

The remainder of this paper is structured as follows: The second section describes this paper's hypothesis, followed by section three about data and proposed model specification to be applied, then the fourth section describes the actual and expected results, and the fifth section is about the conclusions.

II. Hypothesis development

Using Kruskal-Wallis test (H), which is one of the non- parametric tests for one - way design to measure the effect of activating accounting learning communities m the IU, involves two hypothesis for this paper, shown as follows:

The null hypothesis (H_0) / The distribution of the students' and educators' responses to the questionnaire regarding activating accounting learning communities

in the IU are equal

The alternate hypothesis (H_1) / The distribution of the students' and educators' responses to the questionnaire regarding activating accounting learning communities in the IU are not all equal. Which in turn indicate significance variances in the responses of the sample of students and educators.

In addition to the above two hypothesis, the following five hypothesis are to be taken into account within this paper's questionnaire.

- 1- There are obvious practices for the activation of accounting learning communities to help develop students and educators qualifications (Reflected in questions: 4,5,6 &7)
- 2- There are significant relationship between activating accounting learning communities' models and various parties in the IU (Reflected in questions: 8,9,10 &12)
- 3- Activating accounting learning communities significantly impact developing the education environment in the IU (Reflected in questions:
- 12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23 & 24)
- 4- There are obvious polices to develop students and educators in the IU (Reflected in questions: 4,5,8,9,10,13,14,16,17,18,19,20,21,22 &23)

Lack of corporation among students and among educators leads to difficulty of achieving educations goals in the IU (Reflected in questions: 1,2,3,11 &24).

III. Data & Model Specification

Data and model specification in this section reflects the proposed idea of this paper to be applied in the coming periods once the questionnaire's data are successfully collected in the IU.

Data /

Sample A) Four types of data are required to help proceeding this proposed paper. It is as follows:

- Sample of accounting students in the four grades of accounting, it ranges from 100:150 accounting students
- Sample of accounting educators who are actively teach in the field of accounting, it ranges from 100:150 accounting educators
- Sample of administrative stuff, it ranges from 100:150 employers
- Sample of questions embedded in the proposed questionnaire, it reflects 24 questions.

Sample B) Other data will be collected from the practice, it is very low, as it is an initial sample used to reflect an initial vision of expected responses in the IU in regard of accounting learning communities. This sample is the responses of 13 practitioners in the field of accounting, financial management, engineering,

pharmacies, medicine, education, mathematics, statistics, biotechnology, and computer sciences, who have graduated from several universities in Egypt, to the 24 question embedded in the questionnaire.

The Questionnaire / It is prepared to include 24 main questions covering the additional five hypothesis introduced in section III, and it will be introduced to the sample mentioned above in (A), it takes the form in appendix 1

This questionnaire was introduced to the sample mentioned above in (B) and the results are explained in section IV.

Based on questions 13 - 24, accounting is considered the heart of all other sciences that heavily interrelated to accounting. The following figure shows a sample of this interrelation:



Figure 1 Sample of Sciences that heavily rely on Accounting

The Model

The questionnaire involves the students' and educators' sample response to the questions (Sample A & B), N, and there are ranks in there samples (j) = R'j, and an average for all ranks = R' for the purposes of building a model which help in calculating Descriptive statistics and Kruskul - Wallis test (H). (H) is based on a test statistics calculated from ranks established by pooling the observations from C independent simple random sample, where C >2. The null hypothesis is that the populations are identically distributed or alternatively, that the sample were drawn from C identical populations [Hamburg & Young **2000**].

The test statistic (H) involves a comparison of the variation of the ranks of the sample groups. The (H) test is as follows:

$$H = \frac{12 \sum n_{j} (R_{j} - R_{j})^{2}}{N + (N + I)}.$$
 (1)

This paper uses the Minitab statistical package to calculate the (H') test for the sample understudy, then interprets the results for the purpose of reaching to responses to each of the questionnaire's questions regarding activating accounting learning communities in the AUC.

IV. Results

Panel A of Table 1 shows the descriptive statistics results of the 13 practitioners' response to the 24 questions embedded in the under study questionnaire . Analyzing results shown, we find the most significant median, average rank and Z is for the response 2 (Agree) in accordance to Likert scale, indicating a primarily consensus among practitioners that the expected effect of activating accounting learning communities in the Egyptian universities along with the IU will be of high significant.

Panel B of Table 1 shows the Kruskul-Wallis statistics (H statistic) for the responses = 68.36 at degrees of freedom = 4 (K - 1 = 5 - 1 = 4) and significance level of 0.005.

Testing the null hypothesis H_o at significance level 0.005, and using the Chisquare probabilities table of critical values (X^2) in appendix 3, we find (H) is greater than the critical value of 14.86, and we accept the alternate hypothesis H_1 that the distributions are not all equal, indicating various variances in the responses among the practitioners, making the expected effect of activating accounting learning communities in the IU remain unobvious, until more questionnaires to be done and responses to be collected in the same regard, which in turn, raise the necessity of providing much more positive efforts by the IU in terms of policies, efforts, and predictions of visions used to activate accounting learning communities in the IU, where as, responses' weaknesses were found in the area of questions 4,5,6,7,8, and 9, which represent the expected practices and polices to be used by the universities in activating accounting learning communities and its consequences in regards of the relations among various parties in the universities, this is a kind of challenge to the universities, where they are required to prove a persuading future vision to sample A & B about its polices and practices to be implemented in the context of activating accounting learning communities in the universities.

Table 1

Descriptive Statistics of the Responses

Statistics Responses in accordance to Likert scale	n	Median	Average Rank	Z
1	24	1.50 E+00	62.2	0.27
2	24	6.50 E+00	103.8	6.81
3	24	3.00 E+00	68.1	1.19
4	24	0.00 E+00	42.5	-2.84
5	24	0.00 E+00	26.0	-5.43
Overall	120		60.5	

Panel A: Descriptive

Panel B: Kruskal - Wallis Test

H = 68.36

P = 0.000

V. Conclusions

This paper contributes to expecting the effect of activating accounting learning communities in the IU over students, educators, and practitioners by collecting and analyzing responses of 13 practitioners in various fields to a questionnaire provided to them, including 24 main questions related to the effect of the activation.

DF=4

The results, on one hand, suggest primarily consensus among the 13 practitioners, because of there agreement upon the significance effect based on the descriptive statistics analysis, and on the other hand, the results suggest unobvious expected effect based on the (H) statistic's results, because the alternate hypothesis suggests that the population are not all equal, indicating significance variances in the responses of the 13 practitioners' sample (sample B), due to the differences in responses among them for the overall sample of questions.

The results of the analysis leads to what is expected to be in the IU in the same regard when applying the same study over the IU's responses to be collected, therefore, the IU, based on the analysis of sample B's responses, should prove a persuading future vision of polices, practices, and relations to be implemented by the IU to help measure positive effect of activating accounting learning communities. This will open the field for future research in this regard in the IU.

Appendix 1

The Questionnaire

This questionnaire was prepared for the purpose of, the initial measuring of the impact of activating a trend that would affect the accounting students, accounting teachers, and practitioners in various fields, this trend is known, in universities, as " Learning Communities".

Basic definitions before answering the questionnaire

- Learning communities: known as a set of approaches link and cluster various classes in a given term, These classes are often linked and related to various scientific fields. It coordinates one or two syllabuses into one program to be introduced to the students. In order to contribute to the skill development of students and educators in regards of team work, communications, problem solving, and critical thinking.

- For example: Accounting / Pharmacies / Engineering /

Medicine program This program to be introduced to students of pharmacies, engineering, medicine, accounting, for the purpose of benefiting them and giving them various experiences due to their participation in various academic activities with experts from different fields. Whereas, accounting serves the pharmacists, the engineer, the doctor, in practice, it also helps them to make various investment decisions. It is important for the accountant to realize some of the fundamentals of pharmacy, engineering, medicine, in order to be able to identify the cost of particular product, and to measure profit or loss of engineering or medical process.

Guidelines when answering the questionnaire:

- 1- It is preferable to read the statement as one unit before answering the questions
- 2- Posit (True) in front of your responds
- 3- If you need to comment, so briefly do so
- 4- Please add any additional information might be necessary for the questionnaire in the end of the statement We do appreciate your corporation.

The Questions	The responses				
O. 1) The understandability and dialogue	Strongly	Agree	Not	Disagree	Strongly
among students and among educators will be	agree	0	Sure	0	disagree
positive after activating accounting learning	8				
communities					
(0,2) Impression of students and educators					
regarding activating accounting learning					
communities in the IU is optimistic					
communities in the rolis optimistic					
•••••					
Q.3) Expected vision of governmental					
universities to the activation of accounting					
learning communities is optimistic					
Q.4) Efforts to be done to activate accounting					
learning communities in the IU is burdensome					
Q.5) The expected aids to be introduced in					
regard of capitalizing the activation of					
accounting learning communities is optimistic.					
0.6) The expected quality of services to be					
introduced by the III to activate accounting					
introduced by the IU to activate accounting					

learning communities is high			
(0.7) The expected quality of facilities to be			
introduced by the IU to activate accounting			
learning communities is high			
fearing communities is high			
•••••			
•••••			
Q.8) The expectation regarding the quality of			
procedures to be followed by the IU to activate			
accounting learning communities is positive			
and beneficiary			
Q.9) The expected time and efforts required to			
approve the activation of accounting learning			
communities will be high			
O(10) The expected quality of accounting			
learning communities models to be applied			
over students and educators will be high			
over students and educators will be high			
•••••			
Q.11) The activation of accounting learning			
communities will achieve the potential goals.			

0 12) Vour opposed hanafits from activating			
(2.12) four expected benefits from activating			
accounting learning communities is optimistic			
O I3) First-year students enroll in the			
Accounting and financial management program			
recounting and infancial management program			
••••••			
Q.14) First-year students enroll in			
Biotechnology / Charted Accounting and			
Finance.			
Q.15) First-year students enroll in Computing /			
Financial Management, program			
(0, 16) Eight wave students angult in			
Q. 16) First - year students enroll in			
Mathematics / Charted Accounting and Finance			
0.17) Upper-year accounting and finance enroll			
in the Accounting / Financial management			
n uie Accounting / Emanetal management			
program			

0.18) Upper was accounting and finance			
Q.16) Opper - year accounting and finance			
enron in the Biotechnology / Charled			
accounting and finance program			
Q.19) Upper - year accounting and finance			
enroll in the Computing Financial management			
program			
I B			
•••••			
Q.20) upper - year accounting and finance			
enroll in the Mathematics / Charted accounting			
and finance			
O21) First year students enroll in Principles of			
Accounting & Accounting for corporations /			
Engineering / Computer science / Pharmacies /			
Medical Sciences programs			
Wedical Sciences programs			
•••••			
••••••			
Q.22) First - year student enroll in Principle of			
accounting & Financial management / Statistics			
& Mathematics programs			
0.23) Upper - year accounting students enroll			
in Cost accounting . Intermediate accounting&			

international accounting / Engineering /			
Computer science / Pharmacies / Medical			
Sciences programs			
Q.24) Activating learning communities help			
students better develop their skills in regards of			
team working, critical thinking,			
communication, problem solving			

 •••
 • • •

Additional Information to be added by you

Appendix II

The Minitab's results of Descriptive and (H) Tests

Kruskal-Wallis Test

Kruskal-Wallis Test on RESPONSES

LIKERT A	Ν	Median	Ave Rank	Ζ
1	24	1.50 E+00	62.2	0. 27
2	24	6.50 E+00	103.8	6.81
3	24	3.00 E+00	68.1	1.19
4	24	0.00 E+00	42.5	-2.84
5	24	0.00 E+00	26.0	-5.4-3
Overall	120		60.5	

H = 68.36 DF = 4 P = 0.000

H = 74.27 DF = 4 P = 0.000 (adjusted for ties)

Appendix III

Chi-Square Probabilities X

0.995	0.99	0.975	0.95	0.90	0.10	0.05	0.025	0.01	0.005
•••	•••	0.001	0.004	0.016	2.706	3.841	5.024	6.635	7.879
0.010	0.020	0.051	0.103	0.211	4.605	5.991	7.378	9.210	10.597
0.072	0.115	0.216	0.352	0.584	6.251	7.815	9.34S	11.345	12.838
0.207	0.297	0.484	0.711	1.064	7.779	9.4SS	11.143	13.277	14.860
0.412	0.554	0.831	1.145	1.610	9.236	11.070	12.833	15.086	16.750
0.676	0.872	1.237	1.635	2.204	10.645	12.592	14.449	16.812	18.548
0.989	1.239	1.690	2.167	2.833	12.017	14.067	16.013	18.475	20.278
1.344	1.646	2.180	2.733	3.490	13.362	15.507	17.535	20.090	21.955
1.735	2.088	2.700	3.325	4.168	14.684	16.919	19.023	21.666	23.589
2.156	2.558	3.247	3.940	4.865	15.987	18.307	20.483	23.209	25.188
2.603	3.053	3.816	4.575	5.578	17.275	19.675	21.920	24.725	26.757
3.074	3.571	4.404	5.226	6.304	18.549	21.026	23.337	26.217	28.300
3.565	4.107	5.009	5.892	7.042	19.812	22.362	24.736	27.688	29.819
4.075	4.660	5.629	6.571	7.790	21.064	23.685	26.119	29.141	31.319
4.601	5.229	6.262	7.261	8.547	22.307	24.996	27.488	30.578	32.801
5.142	5.812	6.908	7.962	9.312	23.542	26.296	28.845	32.000	34.267
5.697	6.408	7.564	8.672	10.085	24.769	27.587	30.191	33.409	35.718
6.265	7.015	8.231	9.390	10.865	25.989	28.869	31.526	34.805	37.15.6
6.844	7.633	8.907	10.117	11.651	27.204	30.144	32.852	36.191	38.582
7.434	8.260	9.591	10.851	12.443	28.412	31.410	34.170	37.566	39.997
8.034	8.897	10.283	11.591	13.240	29.615	32.671	35.479	38.932	41.401
8.643	9.542	10.982	12.338	14.041	30.813	33.924	36.781	40.289	42.796
9.260	10.196	11.689	13.091	14.848	32.007	35.172	38.076	41.638	44.181
9.886	10.856	12.401	13.848	15.659	33.196	36.415	39.364	42.980	45.559
10.520	11.524	13.120	14.611	16.473	34.382	37.652	40.646	44.314	46.928
11.160	12.198	13.844	15.379	17.292	35.563	38.885	41.923	45.642	48.290
11.808	12.879	14.573	16.151	18.114	36.741	40.113	43.195	46.963	49.645
12.461	13.565	15.308	16.928	18.939	37.916	41.337	44.461	48.278	50.993
13.121	14.256	16.047	17.708	19.768	39.087	42.557	45.722	49.588	52.336
13.787	14.953	16.791	18.493	20.599	40.256	43.773	46.979	50.892	53.672
20.707	22.164	24.433	26.509	29.051	51.805	55.758	59.342	63.691	66.766
27.991	29.707	32.357	34.764	37.689	63.167	67.505	71.420	76.154	79.490
35.534	37.485	40.482	43.188	46.459	74.397	79.082	83.298	88.379	91.952
43.275 -	45.442	48.758	51.739	55.329	85.527	90.531	95.023	100.425	104.215
51.172	53.540	57.153	60.391	64.278	96.578	101.879	106.629	112.329	116.321
59.196	61.754	65.647	69.126	73.291	107.565	113.145	118.136	124.116	128.299
67.328	70.065	74.222	77.929	82.358	118.498	124.342	129.561	135.807	140.169
	0.995 0.010 0.072 0.207 0.412 0.676 0.989 1.344 1.735 2.156 2.603 3.074 3.565 4.075 4.601 5.142 5.697 6.265 6.844 7.434 8.034 8.643 9.260 9.886 10.520 11.160 11.808 12.461 13.121 13.787 20.707 27.991 35.534 43.275 - 51.172 59.196 67.328	0.995 0.99 0.010 0.020 0.072 0.115 0.207 0.297 0.412 0.554 0.676 0.872 0.989 1.239 1.344 1.646 1.735 2.088 2.156 2.558 2.603 3.053 3.074 3.571 3.565 4.107 4.075 4.660 4.601 5.229 5.142 5.812 5.697 6.408 6.265 7.015 6.844 7.633 7.434 8.260 8.034 8.897 8.643 9.542 9.260 10.196 9.886 10.856 10.520 11.524 11.160 12.198 11.808 12.879 12.461 13.565 13.121 14.256 13.787 14.953 20.707 22.164 27.991 29.707 35.534 37.485 43.275 45.442 51.172 53.540 59.196 61.754 67.328 70.065	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	0.995 0.99 0.975 0.95 0.001 0.004 0.010 0.020 0.051 0.103 0.072 0.115 0.216 0.352 0.207 0.297 0.484 0.711 0.412 0.554 0.831 1.145 0.676 0.872 1.237 1.635 0.989 1.239 1.690 2.167 1.344 1.646 2.180 2.733 1.735 2.088 2.700 3.325 2.156 2.558 3.247 3.940 2.603 3.053 3.816 4.575 3.074 3.571 4.404 5.226 3.565 4.107 5.009 5.892 4.075 4.660 5.629 6.571 4.601 5.229 6.262 7.261 5.142 5.812 6.908 7.962 5.697 6.408 7.564 8.672 6.265 7.015 8.231 9.390 6.844 7.633 8.907 10.117 7.434 8.260 9.591 10.851 8.034 8.897 10.283 11.591 8.643 9.542 10.982 12.338 9.260 10.196 11.689 13.091 9.886 10.856 12.401 13.848 10.520 11.524 13.120 14.611 11.160 12.198 13.844 15.379 11.808 12.879 14.573 <	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$

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