ELDA - E-LEARNING DEVELOPMENT AND ADAPTIVITY: A BLENDED SELF-PACED LEARNING AND INSTRUCTOR LED SUPPORT SYSTEM

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INTRODUCTION
Online education systems with open environment have evolved around the world and have been highly publicised. However, many people who register are not completing the course, leading to the high dropout rates widely reported in research papers and in the media. Alarmingly low completion rates have been identified as one of the major problems within Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs).

Our research introduces a new learning platform known as “eLDa”, designed to investigate and mitigate against the problem of low achievement in a MOOC.

Research Objectives
The eLDa platform is developed to incorporate and analyse the effects of novel features to improve motivation, support and self-regulation.

Self-Regulatory study
Self-regulation in an online perspective is the process of the learner developing and enhancing skills in order to achieve set goals (Barnard et al., 2009). eLDaMOOC has introduced lesson prerequisites to support the learner to make their own informed choices and prepare ahead of a lesson at their own pace, and the motivational pattern to engage with the course. The prerequisite introduced was to guide and motivate the learner in an adaptive instructional path to achieve a better knowledge and full understanding of the content. It motivated the learners to prepare beforehand, what their set goals were so as to work towards achieving them.

COURSE STRUCTURE
eLDa is an online MOOC platform, which gives the learners the ability to decide the pattern of their studying habit as explained in self-regulatory study. The course is a guided structure adaptive course, which allows the user to navigate as they so wish or follow the instructional way provided to accomplish their learning and set goals. The course however focuses on three areas: computing concepts, Python programming, and how to teach computing curriculum.

SUMMARY
The idea was to design a self-mode study and instructor led support mode in delivering online course to learners. eLDa combines two modes of self-regulated study and a means to communicating with the tutor by way of private messages. The system is very interactive and guided the learners in a structured path of study. There is security against intruders and login attempts limited to three to enforce and prevent unauthorized access to the learning platform system.