Technology-based Learning Resources for Learner-Centred Training in a Learning Organization: A Model for Sustainable Capacity Building for Official Statistics?

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Professional training is a major vehicle for building both the capacity of the workforce and the institution to which they belong. The Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) has been in the business of providing professional training in official statistics to government statisticians of national statistical offices for almost 45 years. It was established in 1970 in response to the dearth of statistical training providers in Asia, with the mandate to strengthen the capacity of national statistical offices to produce data and statistics in support of development planning and policy making. Since then, the demand for training to build statistical capacity has continued to grow along with increased demands for new and improved data and statistics as well as for replenishing, in numbers or in knowledge and skills, the workforce. To effectively respond to the changing landscape of statistics capacity development needs— more recently, in light of the SDGs and the opportunities for statistical systems to benefit from joining the data revolution-- SIAP continually transforms how it carries out its core business of training on official statistics. Technology-based learning, such as e-learning and blended learning, clearly provides a means for increasing quantity of training opportunities available (hence, wider coverage in terms of domains of official statistics) as well as opening up these opportunities with more frequency, on demand to a larger number of participants. This paper describes how SIAP's adoption of technology-based learning, especially e-learning, evolved and provides an analysis of the effectiveness of the resulting training courses in the context of a learner-centered model for individual training. The paper also aims to look at how a statistical office can leverage technology-based learning to transform itself into a learning organization. The point is that learning organizations build capacity of both individuals and the institution on a continuous and sustainable basis.

Keywords: Technology-based learning; learner-centered; learning organization