

## Chapter 40

# Motivational and Ethical Issues in Seamless Learning: Use of Tablet PCs in a Mobile and Ubiquitous Technology- Enhanced Learning Context

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### **ABSTRACT**

*This chapter aims to explain seamless learning with regard to motivational issues and ethical usage of technology in the context of a mobile and ubiquitous Technology-Enhanced Learning (TEL). The examined TEL environment consisted of a popular technology integration project in Turkey called FATİH (in English, The Movement to Enhance Opportunities and Improve Technology). The FATİH project aims to provide students with opportunities for self-regulated, mobile, and ubiquitous learning via tablet computers, technology-rich classroom environments, and online digital sources. This chapter investigates and presents findings on the effects of technology-enhanced learning environments in terms of students' motivation and ethical issues during their interaction with the learning environment and community.*

DOI: 10.4018/978-1-7998-1757-4.ch040

## INTRODUCTION

It is important to understand how and when students work harder to understand a certain subject. Mayer (2008) suggests four ways to foster motivation in students as a means of meaningful learning and teaching: interest, self-efficacy, casual attribution and goal orientation. Students work harder to learn about a subject when they consider the subject important to themselves. As far back as a century ago, interest was investigated as an important factor in learning. Dewey (1913) argues in his book *Interest and Effort in Education* that learning based on interest is more effective than learning based on effort. The motivation theory advocates that students can learn more easily when they have a high level of interest and curiosity. However, compulsory education makes schools less interesting and reduces students' willingness to learn (Mayer, 2008). Dewey (1913) asserts that "we can have compulsory physical attendance at school; but education comes only through willing attention to and participation in school activities." (p.ix). Therefore, students need to be cognitively, rather than physically active at schools (Mayer, 2008). It is acknowledged that learning does not always occur in formal educational settings. At this point, *seamless learning*, as a new concept, emphasizes the importance of informal learning. Seamless learning is marked by "a continuity of the learning experience across different environments" (Chan, Roschelle, et al. 2006). To Chan, Roschelle, et al. (2006), seamless learning implies the opportunity for students to learn easily and quickly whenever they want to learn in any context including formal, informal, personal, or social."

The continuous nature of seamless learning is possible in large part thanks to mobile ubiquitous technologies. Today, mobile technologies are used more and more for educational purposes in all subject areas across all age groups. Most recent research considers mobile technologies as an integral part of ubiquitous learning environments and investigates the ways to connect classroom-based learning with learning elsewhere with these mobile technologies (Sharpless, 2015). Ubiquitous learning environments are settings where students can learn anytime and anywhere (Peng et al., 2009; Wong & Looi, 2011).

From a motivational perspective, students can be motivated to study after school thanks to mobile devices like smartphones and tablet computers as a part of ubiquitous learning (Sharples & Pea, 2014). According to the Self-Determination Theory (SDT), two types of motivation are distinguished based on the motivational orientations or reasons (Deci & Ryan, 1985): *intrinsic motivation*, i.e. "doing something because it is inherently interesting or enjoyable"; and *extrinsic motivation*, which is "doing something because it leads to a separable outcome" (Ryan & Deci, 2000). While in intrinsic motivation the desire to learn is rooted inside the individual, with extrinsic motivation, the desire to learn comes from outside factors, for example, doing homework because it is required in order to pass a class. This is also related to Moore's concept of self-motivating learning (Sharples, 2015), in which the learner has an intrinsic desire to continue learning, such that the process of finding something out is its own reward and the learner is motivated to accrete knowledge by exploring his or her immediate ideas and surroundings. In this chapter, the notion of seamless learning across different contexts will be investigated with a special emphasis on students' motivation and the ethical use regarding tablet PCs issued to students within the framework of FATIH projects.

Dewey (1916) suggests that great deal of knowledge is attained through our encounters with real-world problems. Dewey (1916) underlines the importance of interaction between individuals in social environments for gaining knowledge and to solve their real-life problems. Social interaction is important for learning acquisition. The nature of social interaction plays an important role in identifying the individual experiences. Interactions provide new knowledge that is constructed around existing knowledge. Learning occurs from the dialogues and social interactions that take place between individuals facing

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