Sultanate Of Oman
Ministry Of Education

البوابة التعليمية
Educational Portal
www.moe.gov.om

Returns on Investment: Educational Portal

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1. Introduction

1.1 Project Overview

Oman Educational Portal adoption is based on a comprehensive vision to pursue emerged future goals and objectives ," Oman Future Vision 2020", set by the Ministry of Education within the National digital strategy of the sultanate e-government . This portal is an electronic communication system that links all educational components using several online programs. It also facilitates the educational and administrative processes to be presented in an effective and attractive shape. It is framed with critical and advanced systems that add value for users by enabling them performing in flexible and productive online environment. The Educational Portal is consider a success because the take up rate has increased steadily, so far, ٢٤٦٣٨ Teachers, ٤٧٧٨ Administrators, 306565 Students in 544 schools and 209847 Parents are using the system to carry out daily transactions.

1.2 Definitions, Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronyms / Abbreviation	Expansion
ROI	Returns of Investment
MoE	Ministry of Education
CBO	Central Bank of Oman

1.3 References

S. No	Originator	Document Name	Path where located

2. Revision History

Version No	Date	Reason For Changes	Author	Approver

3. Return on Investment

3.1 Definition

In context of an education portal, ROI can be defined as the benefits offered by the solution for various stakeholders in terms of improvement in processes, operational efficiency, resource utilisation, reduction in errors, improvement in accessibility of information and the satisfaction of customers and businesses.

3.2 Key Benefits of Education Portal

Some of the key benefits realised after implementation of the Education Portal are as follows

Reduction in Service Time

Service time for printing educational certificates in Muscat has been reduced to 1 day instead of the 3 days it used to take earlier.
Reduction in service time examples;

- Students registration was used to be held within one week and the parents have to drive to other regions and schools looking for a seat for their child without knowing the possibility of not getting a place in that school. Whereas in the portal parents can do the registration online and can know the availability of places in different schools in the desired area and once submit the request they can trace it online and these procedures takes only hours or maximum one day with no need to use any transportation which saves the environment as well.
- Students transfer; the same scenario mentioned above.
- SMS services; the portal has different SMS services that enable parents to get connected with the portal without going to schools and some of these services are; student evaluation report, attendance, know the activities and the classes of the students.
- E-file for students whereas before each school has to be provided with many shelves to store the students' file and once finished each school has to transfer these files physically to other school where the student will complete their; however the situation is different now as all students file are recorded in the portal and can be transferred to another school with a click of button.
- There were many printed books that are used by the school administrators and teachers for the matter of archiving the work. All these books have been eliminated and transfer to E-files in the portal and can be seen, modify, update by the authorised people.
- Students' evaluation and result was handled traditionally and takes one week working days and all processes are manually which consumes efforts and time. However, in the portal it takes 2 days or less to get the results released.
- Vacation services also used to be done traditionally in more than one week but now in the portal it takes one day for approval.
- Teacher transfers used to take more than one month for the final announcement but in the portal it takes 2-3 days as all procedures are done automatically.
- Statistics situation was very bad as there was so several data base in the ministry and once any information needed it will take 2-3 days to be provided. Whereas the portal has on database and

considered as an approved reference for the ministry and any date is required it will take few minutes to be provided helping the matter of having the decision well-handled.

Communication

The Education Portal has resulted in better and more efficient communication between ministry of education, schools, teachers and students as well as between MoE and other ministries in Sultanate of Oman. This has increased the productivity and made life simpler for all the stakeholders.

Resource Utilisation

The Education Portal has resulted in better resource utilization, both human as well infrastructure.

Scalability and Brand Building

The Educational Portal is not implemented in 5 Educational zones out of 11 and the number of each segment use the portal is as the following;

Total number of each segment use the portal	Total number in all Educational regions	
24638	44692	teachers
4778	8731	Administrators
2682	7585	MOE & region employees
209847	408654	Parents
544	1044	schools
306565	519206	students

Time table of the scalability & implementation of the portal

Academic year	Educational regions use the portal	notes
2007/2008	2	
2008/2009	3	
2010/2011	5	
2011/2012	7	We are here in this academic year
2012/2013	8	
2013/2014	11	

The Electronic Educational Portal is a web based application that is tied to a centralized database. This will create a single entry point or portal for all application related to the users within the MoE.

Benefits are:

- It streamlined administrative processes and allow different transactions to be carried out online by the different users; the administrators, the teachers, the students and even the parents.

- Via the portal, users can access applications such as; The School Management System (SMS) transformed all the administrative work in schools into electronic form. It provides comprehensive information on schools, students, teachers and ministry's employees and offers a range of electronic services for them. This allows critical data and information to be collected and facilitate planning from the Ministry level. This is especially important for determining new policies and regulations regarding the education sector.
- The other application linked to the portal is The Learning Management System (LMS), this application handles all educational aspects publishing e-learning content like digital text, e-books, audio and video materials to present the subject in an attractive way for the teachers and the students.
- The portal is also linked to The Documents Management System (DMS) which tracks and archived electronic documents sent by the users. This provides audit trail to all documents transmitted between the users, it also cuts down a lot of paper transactions within the users and saves a lot of expenses for papers and storage space for the Ministry.
- All the three systems mentioned above are integrated with each other and users access them via the Interface Portal System (IPS). This saves the Ministry around OMR 200,000 for storage shelves.
- This online portal shortens the distance and gets transactions completed in a speedy and simplified manner as it eliminates the unneeded procedures. The efficiency of educational planning and evaluation methodologies are considered and implemented.
- Many administrative applications and services with regard to MOE employees have been designed in the portal; teacher transfer, vacations, exams, supervision, training, qualification, budget, etc, culminate in one comprehensive portal.