



Factors Influencing Students' Satisfaction and Dissatisfaction with the Online Learning Community for Korean High School Science Classes

JUNG-SUN LEE¹ (anggela@ewhain.net), JUNG-MOON YOO (yjm@ewha.ac.kr)¹,
PHIL SEOK OH¹ (philoh@ewha.ac.kr), and MYUNG HEE KANG² (mhkang@ewha.ac.kr)
*Department of Science Education¹, Department of Educational Technology², College of
Education, Ewha Womans University, Republic of Korea*

ABSTRACT *The purpose of this study was to investigate factors influencing students' satisfaction and dissatisfaction with an Online Learning Community (OLC). The OLC was a Web-based system that was used to supplement school science curriculum. Data were collected from 62 Korean high school students using an open-ended questionnaire. The factors related to the learners' satisfaction with the OLC involved 'usefulness,' 'easiness of use,' and 'fun factor.' The reasons underlying the students' dissatisfaction with the OLC were classified into three categories, including 'environment problem,' 'student problem,' and 'teacher problem.' In general, the learners considered the OLC as helpful for their learning and recognized their difficulty in getting used to the Web-based system. It is strongly suggested to utilize a Web-based system like the OLC, as an educational tool for teaching and learning science.*

KEY WORDS: *Cooperative technology, Online Learning Community (OLC), Web-based system.*

Introduction

Educators are beginning to worry that school learning cannot keep pace with the development of science and technology, and suggested that a Web-based system may help to fill the gap (Molnar, 1997). Today it would be insufficient, even incongruent, to teach students without using the Web, given how completely they are already integrated into both the workplace and home. For example, 10 million Koreans, out of the total 47 million population, used the Internet in 1999, and the use of the Internet is increasing rapidly in Korea since that time. According to the data obtained in December 2002, 71.8% of the people using the Internet did so every day, most (79.5%) accessed it from home, and 39.6% had already joined online communities. In addition, the most frequently used (55%) method of connecting to the Internet was via exclusive connection lines, such as xDSL (x Digital Subscriber Line), which allows the transmission of large volumes of data (Korea Educational Development Institute, 2002). The continuing increase in the use and the recognition of the value of online communities in Korea make the utilization of a Web-based learning system feasible for educational purposes.

