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PILOT TESTING OF WEBINAR SITE ON FOOD & NUTRITION TRAININGS

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INTRODUCTION

- The growth of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) has been developing rapidly for the past two decades.
- The study explored the use of webinar for food and nutrition training.
- Webinar is synchronous, live, on-line, internet- based educational presentation during which the resource speaker presents lecture with power point presentation while participants view, listen, and may give interactions through the live chat (Wang and Hui-yin, 2008).
- In the Philippines, there are still no known studies that use and evaluate the use of web-based learning in public health education.
- The study aimed to: (1) develop a website as a platform for the food and nutrition webinars; and (2) evaluate the effectiveness of webinar in imparting nutrition knowledge among its participants.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

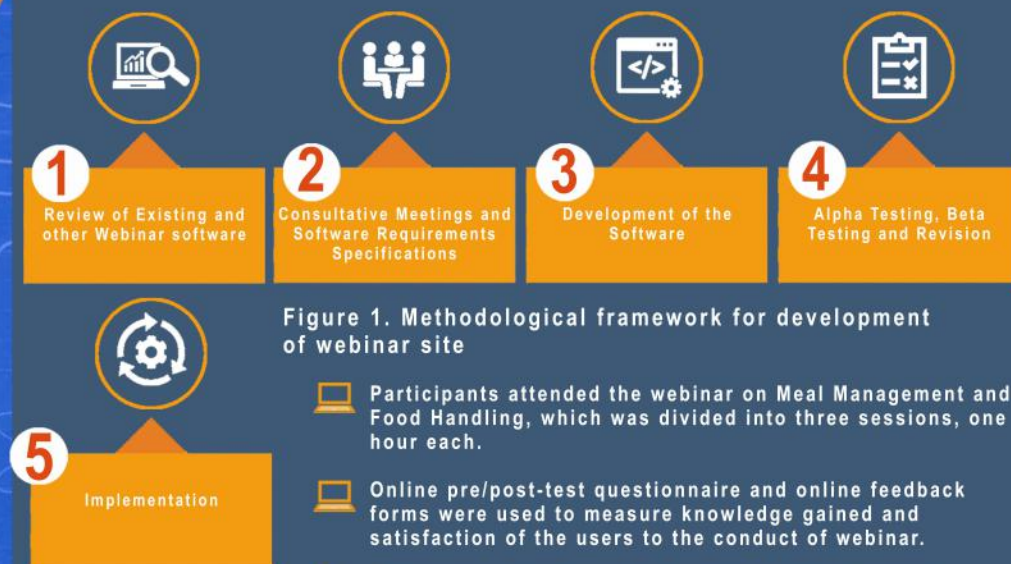


Figure 1. Methodological framework for development of webinar site

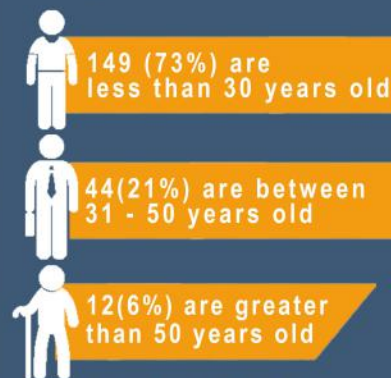
RESULTS



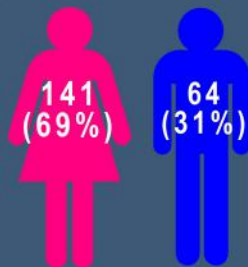
Figure 1. Homepage of the Food and Nutrition Webinar Channel



Figure 2. Actual Conduct of Webinar



Distribution of age of webinar users (n=205)



Distribution of gender of the webinar users (n=205)

Drop-out rates of 53% and 66% were noted during the conduct of the webinar sessions

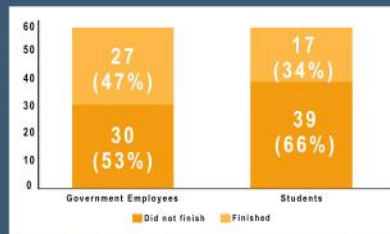


Figure 3. Number of Participants who finished and did not finish the webinar

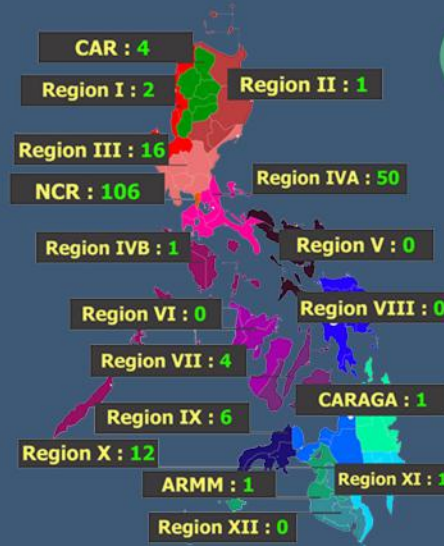


Figure 4. Distribution of the location of the webinar users (n=205)

Table 1. Average Gain Score of the Participants

| Topic | Mean Score (Pre-test) | Mean Score (Post-test) | Average Gain Score | p value |
|--|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|---------|
| Training on Meal Management and Food Handling for DOST Employees | 23.94 | 31.53 | 7.59 | 0.001* |
| Training on Meal Management and Food Handling for Students | 25.13 | 28.00 | 2.87 | 0.001* |

Change in mean scores of pre and post-tests of those who finished the course were significant (p value <0.001) based on Wilcoxon-Signed Rank Test.



The webinar evaluation rating is very satisfactory. The format and usability of the website also got a very satisfactory rating.

CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATION

- The webinar was effective in disseminating nutrition information as measured by increase in post-test score.
- The site was accessed by users from all over the country. Thus, it can be an inexpensive way of disseminating nutrition information.
- To prevent drop-outs, emails may be sent to the participants before the webinar to remind them of the upcoming session.