A Computer Education Model for Better Quality Information Welfare for the Elderly

Woo-Hong Cho

Dept. of Social Welfare, Sewon University

Abstract

This study analysed the needs of the elderly in computer education, their preference and demands for computer education to enhance the quality of information welfare for the elderly, and presented a computer education model for higher quality information welfare for the elderly to maximize the effect of computer education. For this study, variables were selected from previous studies and by the researcher to present a computer education model for the elderly.

Keywords: 노인정보화(information for the elderly), 노인정보복지(information welfare for the elderly), 노인컴퓨터교육(computer education for the elderly), 노인컴퓨터교육 모형(a computer education model for the elderly), 정보화수준(quality of informatization)

I. INTRODUCTION

As of 2014, the population above the age of 65 makes up 12.7% of the total population, one out of ten, and by 2040, it is expected that the percentage will increase to 32.3%, three out of ten.

With such a rapid ageing, the speed of informatization is accelerating further. However, there is a limitation in the ability of the elderly to respond to changes in information technology derived from rapid informatization.

The elderly's use of computers is an inevitable skill and vital energy which can change living patterns positively. When computer skills are introduced in their daily lives, subjects can expand their bonds with the external world and are not lonely enjoying their hobbies and recreation.

Therefore, this study aims to analyse preferences and demands of the elderly for computer education and develop a computer education model designed for better information welfare for the elderly to maximize the effect of the education.

II. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

1. An Analysis of the Levels of Information Welfare for the Elderly

As the concept of information welfare for the elderly has the same vein as informatization for the elderly, this study is to examine it through the concept of informatization for the elderly. Therefore, information welfare for the elderly is an informatization effort and a process where information is produced, distributed and used by the elderly to make their lives better. It is to solve problems in the elderly, and promote efficiency in the solution by producing, distributing and using information for the elderly to enhance their welfare.

2. Computer Education for the Elderly and Informatization

With respect to informatization of computer education for the elderly, this study gave focus to the necessity of and effects in implementation of computer education. First, the necessity of computer education for the elderly is presented as follows: computer education should be provided at the level of continuing...
education and welfare for the elderly is becoming self-aided according to the progress of the ageing society. Therefore, as the elderly have to be responsible for their old age themselves, computer education for them is necessary.

III. A Computer Education Model for the Elderly

1. Selection of Variables

With respect to the selection of variables needed to develop a computer education model for the elderly in this study, this study was based on variables selected by previous studies and selected those which were considered to be necessary (demand for education, participation status, quality of education service, use behavior, education evaluation, education achievements, political suggestion).

2. A Strategy of Managing a Model for Active Computer Education for the Elderly

When the elderly are to complete computer education, their educational demand should be precisely analysed for efficient education which meets the demand for computer education. Computer education whose educational demand is not identified may lead to waste of budget and according to insufficient efficiency in educational implementation, the efficacy of education can be lowered.

Basic computer education should be provided after investigation and analysis of educational demands of the elderly. After the basic education, individualized education is recommended for higher effects in computer education.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

This study aimed to identify the needs of the subjects in computer education for the elderly for higher levels of information welfare in the elderly and analyse their preferences and needs for computer education to present an efficient computer education model which can enhance information welfare for the elderly.

Accordingly, the following is presented: the elderly may feel isolated as they can not keep up with the rapidly-progressing informatization in this age.

To solve this problem, the government should make a plan to decrease the gap in information, that is, to meet the needs of information users in old age, a practical welfare informatization plan which can enhance the quality of information service should be developed. Then, the informatization education for the elderly should be consistently expanded further. In such a case, it is expected that more jobs will be open to the elderly. Therefore, this study has meaning in that it presented a model to activate computer education for the elderly in a composite aspect, not a fragmental aspect.