ABSTRACT

Existing typical room based learning in the four southernmost provinces of Thailand include several limitations in the unrest situation. Physical security is the key issue when making journeys to schools and universities. Furthermore, the destruction of physical buildings in the unrest area also poses concrete limitations to existing room based learning in the affected area. With this phenomenon, the accessibility to physical room based class is problematic and limited. In contrast, the accessibility to mobile networks is getting wider; accessibility to mobile devices is also getting cheaper and easier along the time, thus the investigation on how mobile learning could benefits the learners should be conducted. Based on the limitations of existing room based learning, the research objectives were constructed which are (1) to estimate the current situation in the four southernmost provinces of Thailand, (2) to identify the limitations of existing room based learning affected by the unrest situation in the area, (3) to explore information from government sources and published papers about mobile technology used in the southernmost provinces of Thailand, and (4) to construct initial guidelines and recommendations framework when using mobile technology as a learning environment in the school system of the southernmost provinces of Thailand. In order to achieve these objectives, the literature analysis, focus groups, and semi-structured interviews were conducted. From the analysis of the data collected, we found that there are nine guidelines that are essential and should be implemented for the current context of the affected area. These guidelines are G1: Guidelines for M-learning curriculum, G2: Guideline for M-learning teaching plan, G3: Guidelines for M-learning content identification, G4: Guidelines for M-learning evaluation, G5: Guideline for perceptions and roles, G6: Guidelines for M-learning usability design, G7: Guidelines for additional services/applications, G8: Guidelines for choice of technology and infrastructure establishment, and G9: Guidelines for equipment management.