

A JOURNEY AND ORIENTATION OF E-LEARNING BY WEB TECHNOLOGY FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

This research describes the different factors of E - Learning In which it provides the various details like the meaning of E learning, why we should follow the E learning, Different approaches of e learning Different methods of E learning. It also provide the tabulate difference between conventional learning and E learning in comparison some the parameters are taken like, learning theories and approaches, Independent learner centered learning, flexibility in learning , interactions ,access to material, contact with instructor and the utilization of technology.

Keyword:- E – Learning, Class room, Technology

1. INTRODUCTION

As you have probably noticed we all learn in different ways. We learn from the things that happen near to us - our experiences. Learning is a rational process of acquiring knowledge or skills through study or teaching, watching. Some of us learn well by working in groups, discussing and sharing ideas. Others learn better by listening music or reading silently in the library. Learning is acquiring relatively permanent change in behaviour through experience. We experience things and learn to modify our behaviours based on what we know. Differences are due to our experiences, habits and personal innate ability to learn. We all have our own particular way of acquiring new information - this is called a learning style. Learning can take place as organized and purposed activities, such as learning in a classroom with a teacher and ready-made learning material or unconsciously, without you being aware of the process of learning. You have been in a traditional classroom and probably experienced that subjects have been taught by explaining the content with words and you are supposed to learn by listening and writing.

2. E-LEARNING

A learning system based on formalised teaching but with the help of electronic resources is known as E-learning. While teaching can be based in or out of the classrooms, the use of computers and the Internet forms the major component of E-learning. E-learning can also be termed as a network enabled transfer of skills and knowledge, and the delivery of education is made to a large number of recipients at the same or different times. Earlier, it was not accepted wholeheartedly as it was assumed that this system lacked the human element required in learning.

However, with the rapid progress in technology and the advancement in learning systems, it is now hugged by the masses. The introduction of computers was the basis of this revolution and with the passage of time, as we get

addicted to smartphones, tablets, and other electronic gazettes etc., these devices now have an importance place in the classrooms for learning. Books are gradually getting replaced by electronic educational materials like cd, dvd, blue ray disc, pen drives, USB hard Discs. Knowledge can also be shared via the Internet, which is accessible 24/7, anywhere, anytime.

E-learning has proved to be the best means in the corporate sector, especially when training programs are conducted by MNCs for professionals across the globe and employees are able to acquire important skills while sitting in a board room, or by having seminars, which are conducted for employees of the same or the different organizations under one roof. The schools which use E-learning technologies are a step ahead of those which still have the traditional approach towards learning.

2.1 WHY E-LEARNING?

Web based or e learning is a new concept and one should know why we should accept web based learning. We should think on traditional learning is and what web-based learning is.

Our purpose of learning is to acquire new knowledge and skills. In e-learning and traditional learning the teacher is mentoring and students are doing various learning activities. Differences between e-learning and traditional learning are seen when we take a closer look at learning activities and tools, teaching approaches, communication issues, etc.

The biggest difference between e-learning and traditional learning is in communication issues. E- Learning offers many opportunities for interaction with both fellow students and instructors. Communication can take place via various communication tools such as e-mail, telephone, chat etc. In a traditional way of learning communication and interaction take place mostly at the same time and place as face-to-face meetings.

Due to the distance between the teacher and students in a web-based learning new learning and teaching approaches are needed. E-learning enables learner-centred approach. Learning is seen as an active construction of meaning. The main idea behind teaching is to guide and facilitate learning. Group work and independent learning are at the same time the key words of e-learning. In traditional learning approach is teacher-centered, teacher giving/providing knowledge and it is receiving by students passively. Criterion for using E-learning approaches is changes of roles of teachers and students. In e-learning, the teacher is a motivator who encourages and supports students in independent and group work activities. Teacher should be an organizer who plans learning activities to support students in learning process. In addition, teacher has to be a mentor who guides and tutors students through learning material and learning tasks. Students are active in their learning process. Students should construct their own knowledge and organize their learning. Furthermore, they should be able to adopt new technology-based learning tools and approaches.

3. E-LEARNING METHODS

As a result from new teaching and learning approaches student assessment in e-learning courses is also different. In a classroom setting it is usual to have an oral or written exam after the course, but in e-learning various methods are adopted by teacher.

Some of the methods to evaluate the students are as follows.

- **Discussion forums.** Teacher can observe the student's active participation.
- **Online multiple choices exam.** It is Student's self-test examination.
- **E-portfolio.** In this e-learning student can have collected all your material and assignments electronically during the course.
- **Report or essay.** Student can analyses and express his comprehension based on the content of the course.
- Assessments are carried out mainly by tutors or computer. In e-learning self and peer assessment have become popular ways of evaluating students' progress.

In e-learning different learning tools are used compared to classroom learning like laptops, Desktops, Hard drives, pen drives, CD, audio, video, PDA, mobile, etc., are used to create suitable learning environments and carry out various learning activities.

Taking part in e-learning courses requires certain skills and expertise to be successful. Motivated and independent learners will handle e-learning better. Knowledge, wisdom and skills related to the use of computers and their devices are also prerequisites for successful e- learning. Nevertheless, fortunately all these skills are acquirable.

No doubt, it is equally important to take forward the concept of non-electronic teaching with the help of books and lectures, but the importance and effectiveness of technology-based learning cannot be taken lightly or ignored completely. It is believed that the human brain can easily remember and relate to what is seen and heard via moving pictures or videos. It has also been found that visuals, apart from holding the attention of the student, are also retained by the brain for longer periods. Various sectors, including agriculture, medicine, education, services, business, and government setups are adapting to the concept of e-learning which helps in the progress of a country.

As we know coin has two sides same way e-learning has certain advantages with limitations also. To learn more effectively one should take care of its benefits as well as its limitations. Following is comparison of e-learning benefits and limitations based on some factors.

Comparing Factor	Benefits	Limitations
Learning theories and approaches	New learning theories and approaches enable to learn and teach in a more effective way. Students can experience a sense of equality. Course work and challenging assignments are stimulating for knowledge building.	Teachers and learners have to adopt new learning theories and approaches. Role changes of teachers and learners may cause frustration and confusion. Without the common structures of a traditional class, students may feel lost or confused about course activities and deadlines.
Independent and learner centered learning	Students can work at their own pace, when they want. Web-based learning enables to study more deeply areas of interest. It encourages exploring material on your own and enables to skip over materials already mastered. Web-based learning supports personalised learning and is self-directed. It builds self-knowledge and self-confidence and encourages students to take responsibility for their own learning.	Learners who are not self-motivated, self-directed and independent are not able to plan their own learning and may have problems. Material and assignment instructions might be too complicated to understand independently. Some of the students may lose motivation without certain deadlines. Independent learning requires certain skills: technological, communication skills, self-motivation and effective study habits.
Flexibility	Web-based learning enables to join discussions at any hour and encourages also those who don't like to speak. It facilitates learning through a variety of activities. Learners have access to courses, which enables to reduce travel time and costs.	Learners with low motivation or bad study habits may fall behind. They may have difficulties in organizing their learning.
Interaction	Web-based learning provides interaction between students and instructors. Students can share their ideas with other students,	Prohibits those who are not active learners in a group. Human contact is missing as interaction is relied on electronic

	which may help to understand the material better.	communication.
Access to material	Students can study anywhere and anytime if they have an access to computer and Internet. Web-based learning provides continual and also direct access to materials, resources in many different formats and of good quality.	Problems with technology might prevent the access: low speed connection, difficulties to download information, problems with communication tools. Some courses and materials might be out of date. There may be lack of quality control.
Contact with instructors	Working on the web offers an opportunity to communicate with students using e-mail, discussion boards etc. Teachers receive students' work quickly and they provide timely feedback to students' questions.	Teachers are overloaded with students and their contacts. Students may feel isolated from the instructor and classmates. Instructor may not always be available when students are studying or need help.
Use of technology	When you learn to use one browser and certain software, you will probably be able to use other browsers and software as well. Some of the software and web browsers are free of charge on the internet. Web-based learning develops knowledge of the Internet and computer skills that help learners throughout their lives and careers.	Managing computer files and online learning software can be complex for students with beginner-level computer skills. Poor usability may cause troubles with navigation, computers crash or have viruses, impossible to send mails. Software and access to the Internet and e-mail is not free all the time

4. CONCLUSIONS

E-learning has many advantages and one cannot stand alone in flow of technology. One should learn and adopt technology. Adjusting class room teaching with e-learning will give countless advantages to the society.

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