

# E-EDUCATION-A SUBSTITUTE OR A SUPPORT FOR TRADITIONAL EDUCATION

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## ABSTRACT

*This study aims to discuss the trend of e-learning in the province of traditional education. With the arrival of the competition era, new technologies and methods have emerged as facilitating tools and have helped to overcome the drawbacks of old and conventional approaches. The introduction of e-learning in the field of education has rejuvenated the traditional education modes and served as a support by unfurling the time and space boundaries of learning. The field of education has also witnessed an enormous change with the introduction of ICT tools (Information and Communication Technology tools). The blending learning approach i.e. the merging of both the methods-traditional education and E-education has changed the face of global educational scenario immensely. On the other hand, as a method of sole learning, the accomplishment of learning- aim depends on life managerial skills and aspects like self-discipline, self-management and self-motivation of the learners. E-learning has nullified the learners' dependency on educators and at the same time handover the total responsibility of success to the learners. This paper describes the changing trends of traditional education and E-education system in educational history and global educational scenario. Further, the authors have discussed the strengths and weaknesses of both the mode of educational system and highlighted the role of e-learning as a support to and as a substitute for traditional education.*

**Keywords:** - E-learning , Traditional education and ICT.

## 1.INTRODUCTION

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century starts with the integration of the conventional approach and e-ways at each level of life from education, media, and business to the social communication. The knowledge of ICT tools becomes a need for an easy and effective work as the usage of ICT tools had been interknitted in our day to day life [1-4]. Before two-three decades when education system had its limitation, the learners had to feed themselves with the information given in books. Also the skills like creativity, imagination and application of knowledge in practical life had its limited scope to develop. Whereas in virtual era, ICT has prevailed over traditional approaches by facilitating learners with the time-space freedom and avail an opportunity by enhancing their imagination and visualization skills by giving the advantages of technologies. ICT has provided great and exciting opportunities for educators as well as for learners and hence creates an inventive environment for learning [5-7].

The fundamental motive of pedagogy is to create a motivational and innovational environment for an effective learning. It also, emphasizes a consistent guidance of educators to the learners and cultivation of values to the next generation from the old. Pedagogy aims to acquire the learners with the skills and demands to sustain in the challenging times [8]. By adapting the new ways of teaching-learning, traditional education has served these

purposes from years. A wide welcome to e-learning in the traditional education is an example of versatility of the education system.

An adoption of ICT tools makes the education more effective, efficient and elaborative. Also, ICT being a facilitating tool for the teachers to be innovative and to create a rich experience of learning [9].

On other hand, as a method of sole learning, E-learning has its weaknesses to fulfill the fundamental motives of pedagogy. E-learning provides the independency to the learners in regards to time and space, but with the same time its success relies on self-discipline and self-management of learners. Also in the lack of actual live ambience, as in traditional education, it leads to a dull approach of learning. In addition to it, to get an advantage of E-learning the learners must acquire the art of using ICT tools handling as well as the venerability caused by it.

An attempt is made through this paper to highlight the educational system before the introduction of E-learning and after the adoption of E-learning. Also, authors detail the role of E-learning in traditional education as a support and as a substitute and have discussed that how the blend approach can nullify the drawback of both the mode of E-learning.

### **What is Education?**

In a broad spectrum, Education is the process of bringing outone's own potential which already exists in oneself by molding the character and creating awareness in one. Education is the illuminating process which enables the man to find the fundamental answers of how to live and why to live.

- According to Mahatma Gandhi-“Education is the over-all development of a man's body, mind and soul.” It focuses on the Head, Heart and Hand.
- According to Swami Vivekananda- “Education is the manifestation of divine perfection that already exists in man.”
- According to Aristotle-“All who have meditated on the art of governing mankind have been convinced that the fate of the empires depends on the education of youth.”
- According to Pestalozzi-“Education is the natural, harmonious and progressive development of man's innate power.”

An analysis of the above definitions illustrates the power of the core of education to re-create and re-enhance the inner potentials of an individual. It re-manifests the potentials of the child and enables the development of the social cum individual dimensions at large. Education promotes social changes and transformations in a constructive manner.

#### **• Traditional Education:**

Traditional education is the education of values, beliefs, skills and experiences of one generation to the next generation. The traditional education varied geographically and its content, values, beliefs and skills also designed as per the need of that particular region.

In traditional education the transmission of knowledge takes place through continuous reconstruction of experiences. The teaching-learning process occurred in confined environment i.e. the class boundaries, where the educator plays the key role to impart the knowledge to the learners. It follows fixed norms and teacher headed system at large.

#### **• E-EDUCATION:**

E-education means electronic education.

E-learning is the learning that can be held outside the classroom boundaries with the help of electronic technologies.

E-learning can also be defined as a learning method of organized teaching with the help of electronic resources[10].

The introduction of E-education has revived the conventional education system. The peculiarity of E-education is the liberty of time and space to the learners, which provides a great comfort to the learners compare to it in traditional education.

#### • CHARACTERISTICS OF TRADITIONAL EDUCATION:

Traditional education has always being a foundation for the building of any society. Traditional education is the process of sowing the seeds of values, ethics and morals in learners for the creation of benevolent society. Before the movement of e-education, the traditional education can be characterized as follows:

- 1) Traditional education consists of an educator, a group of learners, chalk and black-board.
- 2) Learners have to be present physically in classroom to gain knowledge.
- 3) As the educator plays the key role in traditional education, the process becomes teacher-centered rather than learner-centered.
- 4) The role of learners in this education mode is passive which makes the learning process dull.
- 5) Sometimes the curriculum designed more examination oriented and less directed towards the overall development of learners.
- 6) Traditional education help learners to learn social skill and adjustment.
- 7) As its content includes the beliefs, morals and values of the old generation, it herald the rich heritage from old generation to the new.

#### • CHARACTERISTICS OF E-EDUCATION:

As a demand of thriving competition, the ICT has emerged as a helping hand for innovation and creation in the world of work. Today, when the technologies have cabled the whole world, its knowledge and the art of its usage become the matter of concern of this time. The e-education can be characterized as follows:-

- 1) E-education fashioned with the liberty regarding space and time.
- 2) E-education has made the learning process available for 24×7. Learners need not to be present physically on a particular time and place as in traditional education. The learners from the rural area and who are working full time can also take its advantages[11].
- 3) E-education is a pace based learning process. Slow learners can pause the learning session and even they can relearn it by playing it again [12].
- 4) E-education is more learner-centered teaching-learning method than traditional education.
- 5) The latest updates are made available in any subject.
- 6) E-education is the sole learning method which eliminates the room for the cultivation of social skills in the lack of live conversation. The achievement of E-education depends on self-discipline of the learners.
- 7) One of the biggest advantages of e-learning is-it puts an end to the need of papers and so saving trees.
- 8) The courses available on e-education are of low cost. Also, its universal accessibility reduces the cost of travelling and accommodation.

Thus the characteristics of e-learning are prominently boundary less, time-less, space-less, economic and have crossed the boundaries of rigidity in terms of learners and teachers viz. content and behavior.

## **2. THE ROLE OF E-EDUCATION IN TRADITIONAL EDUCATION:**

### **→ E-Education as a support:**

today when the whole world seemed to be merged with regards to education, business and research, the learners must acquire the knowledge and skills to work globally .E-education has overcome limitations of any political, physical and economical boundaries and made the learning process possible at anytime and anywhere [13].This peculiarity of E-learning has overcome the biggest drawback of traditional education.

E-education makes the teaching-learning process more alive and hence makes the learning process interested. Also, E-education has broadened the receiving path of information which makes the educator and learners updated. The boundaries of traditional education has overruled by the e-education which makes the teaching-learning process global [14].

The old and conventional approach of teaching-learning process can be reformed with the help of e-learning. The individual need of the learners can be easily satisfied with e-education which is impossible in traditional education.

### **→ E-education as a substitute:**

The movement which arises with the introduction of e-education in the conventional education has put a question mark on the importance of traditional education. E-education, in the role of a substitution of traditional education raises a debatable question of this time. Though e-learning has provided a new face to education, it cannot replace traditional education with respect to many aspects.

Traditional education characterized with the consistent guidance, motivation and help from educators to the learners. Also traditional education plays a significant role in heralding our ancestors' knowledge to the next generation. E-learning is not equipped with these features of traditional education and so probably cannot produce quality human resources.

There are subjects which will probably give the far better result if they taught face to face in traditional environment. The feedback in e-learning is slower than that of in live ambience of traditional education which constantly navigates the learners to the right path.

## **3. CONCLUSION**

From the above discussion, we can conclude that both the mode of learning process i.e. the traditional education and e-education has their weaknesses and strength, which can be overruled with the help of blending approach. The blend approach of both the modes of learning can make the learning live and long for the learners. To succeed the final goal of education, we must embrace the changes while keeping the old knowledge alive. An educator plays the vital role in this blending approach, by making the learners adequate with the new knowledge of e-education and by cultivating the old wisdom with constant efforts.

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