

E -LEARNING: A REVOLUTION IN TRADITIONAL EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT:

This study aims to discuss the pros and cons of E-learning over the traditional education and the influence of E-learning on the role of teachers in higher education. In this digital era, when technologies have proliferated at each level of the society, media, business, economy and education, the knowledge and application of Information, communication and technology (ICT) being the 'must factor' for everyone. Because of the accessibility of digital devices like mobiles, tablets, computers etc., today's learners are more comfortable, active and aware with technologies. [1]

The huge adaptation of ICT has transformed traditional education to E-learning which provide the numerous opportunities to make the learning process more effective as well as efficient and cultivate the skill to sustain in the period of tough competition.[2] E-learning has emerged as a supportive tool to fulfil the need of the time and to produce the quality human resources. E-learning in educational process has been accepted World-wide and being prime concern in conventional education. [3]

After defining the traditional education and the E-learning, authors discuss the pros and cons of both the mode of learning and how E-learning can be the supportive tool for conventional education. Authors also discuss the role of teacher in E-learning to make the education more innovative and to keep the pace with time.

KEYWORDS: - e-learning, Traditional education

1. Introduction:

Traditional education is a learning process to acquaint knowledge and understanding. As a wide perspective, the traditional education transmits the knowledge, moral values, cultural norms and skills to the new generation from the old. The traditional education consists of a teacher (or an educator) and a group of learners, where the teacher creates an atmosphere of learning and the learning process with a conscious and deliberate effort to lead the learner for the comprehensive development.

But Today when the e-era has evolved various modes of information and communication at each level of society and has arisen a drastic change in lifestyle of an individual. The recent development in ICT has also created the revolutionary period in education and transformed the conventional education to e-learning. As a result of awareness and adaptation of technology in education, the role of teacher has also changed. Today when ICT has become a synonym for creativity, innovation and opportunities for a lifelong learning, it helps teachers to be updated, innovative and effective in teaching-learning process [4].

With the new development in ICT, E-learning has emerged as a facilitating tool for the learners with the different ways of learning providing the content via internet, audio or video tape, satellite TV and CD-ROM. To

face the new challenges and to take the advantage of changes, the educator(or a teacher)needs to possess ability to organize and analyze information using ICT. The teacher will be the key person in transmitting the new learning opportunities in this digital era.

Also, if we perceive the E-learning as a sole learning process which facilitates the learner with their independency of time and boundaries as compared to the traditional education, it requires the self-discipline and self-motivation for the desirable outcomes. As a sole learning it also juxtaposes the adverse effect on the cognitive skills of the learners.

This paper highlights how E-learning and traditional learning will be compared as a means to seek the greatest form of education present today and also the influence of E-learning on the role of teacher.

2. THE PROS AND CONS OF TRADITIONAL TEACHING:

2.1 Pros of Traditional teaching:

The definition of traditional education varies from place to place with respect to the culture of region.Considering a wide spectrum, traditional education is the process of passing knowledge to youngsters from adults. The traditional education aims to give empowered youth to the society imparting the knowledge,values, cultural norms and skills. Traditional education is the foundation of any society as it develops the comprehensive skilled human resources.

The traditional education process comprises of a classroom where teacher (or educator) plays the central role.The teacher is the guide who show the paths to the learners. The objective of the traditional education is not only imparting the information or facts but it also sown the seed of values and cultural norms in learners. The teacher shapes the character as well as the career of the learner for their personal and professional development[5] .The physical presence of the teacher in class room also helps to fill the gap in between and make the learner to grasp the knowledge better. In this learning process, learners have the opportunities of sharing ideas, solving queries and getting feedback at instance. At the same time, as the traditional education follows regulations and the systematic approach, it teaches the time management as well as make learners more efficient. Also the celebration of annual day, cultural activities etc. held in traditional education teach the social skills as well as the cultural norms to learners. The activities like seminars, group discussion, face to face interaction also provide the stage to learners.

2.2 Cons of traditional education:

According to John Dewey traditional education is the education “imposed from above and from outside”, where the role of student is passive and teacher has to play central role all the time.

As a remark of Jim cerivener on Traditional education (is imagine traditional education to work as jug and mug)-the knowledge being poured from one receptacle into an empty one. [6]. i.e. The learning process involves the directed flow of information from the teacher as asender to the learners as a receiver. The transmission of knowledge is generally of the form of lectures or discussions which emphasise the role of teacher much and lead to the compliant role of learners. Also the profound boundaries of classroom, the rigid schedule and lack of resources effect the “wanting to learn” factor.

In traditional education it being difficult to pay fixed attention for the teacher toeach individuals to develop their skills and solve problems according to different needs of learners. The traditional education focuses more on completing the syllabus designed in the curriculum and hence emphasise more on the presentation rather than having the thorough practise for it.The learning outcomes of this transmission have been examined by posing various task to the learners. As stated by (cotel& Mills,1993, bonner 1999) the traditional teaching methods includes attending the lectures, citing the text, formulating the questions, analysing the problems though discussions and questionnaire. Also the accessibility of educational institutes is difficult for some rural learners as it is situated at distant areas and are accessible at fixed time.

Hence, the learners may lose the interest in learning process because of the suppression of enthusiasm and potential.

3. Pros and cons of E-learning:

3.1 Pros of E-learning:

E-learning is the electronic learning.

E-learning is a revolution which provides the empowerment possessing of knowledge and skill for the benefits. [7]. It uses the Internet technologies to increase the opportunities in an individual. E-learning is flexible, individual and self-organised assembly. Literature shows that how e-learning can be helpful if proper strategies are employed to it [8]. E-learning can be understood as a learning process of interaction with the digitally delivered content, network-based services and tutoring [9]. The e-learning facilitates the learner to access knowledge at any time and any place with ease hence eliminating the geographical barriers. As E-learning is mobile, it gives the freedom to learn anytime and anywhere. The learners can acquire e-learning through the digital devices of ICT such as laptops, cell phones and tablets with different available modes like visual-audible videos, animation, pictures.

The E-learning provides attention to each individual differences and so learning process being more effective and interesting to the learners. Also E-learning is a pace allowing process and so helpful for the slow learners. E-learning is beyond the age limitations, racism or cast discrimination and offer the ubiquitousness and uniformity in learning to each learner. Stretching the boundaries of class room, E-learning has broadened the path of education. E-learning provides new learning opportunities for learners with different and innovative ways. Also to keep pace with time, educators also enhance the learning process by facilitating E-learning to learners.

3.2 Cons of E-learning:

Though the E-learning is supportive tool for the learning process, the abundance information may cause the diversion from the main objective of learning. Because of the absence of a teacher, the total responsibility of outcomes relies on the learners. Also, without the control of teacher and schedule to be followed, the learner may lead to procrastination.

In E-learning method, the learners may not be able to develop the communication and social skill that of in traditional education. E-education has provided abundance information rather than knowledge enrich with values and cultural norms. Also, as E-learning comprises of the machine (mobile, laptop or tablet) and a learner, the process of learning being mechanical rather than live interaction as held in real class room. The continuous use of computers also leads to medical issues.

4. Result:

As the above discussion, the traditional education is the knowledge beyond the time and E-learning is the need of the time. The only way to meet the higher goals of education is to embrace the changes. The revolutionary structure of education can be form by weaving the traditional education and E-learning together as both the methods complimenting each other. The role of teacher is pivotal in this transformation as it provides numerous opportunities to make the learning process effective. As E-learning has expanded all the boundaries of education, teachers have the freedom to decide the way of teaching and learning process. The traditional teaching approach emphasises on the teacher centred classrooms, now with the summation of multimedia and technology and its practical application in learning process, that can be transformed to the student centred. The e-learning creates a virtual environment and isolated study, the learner lacks in developing different skills but with the guidance of a teacher and the advances of traditional education, the comprehensive development of a learner is possible. As the teacher is time bounded in traditional education, the teacher may involve learners to advance their knowledge by the use of technology which will expand and strengthen the core content. The e-learning can

become active and thought provoking with the help of active participation of teacher and learner through discussions and can eradicate the lack of social interaction in learners. As The learner can effectively transmit the information from the physical classroom to the virtual classroom and vice versa, the sharing of knowledge and exchange of ideas, it strengthening the teaching learning practises.

5. Conclusion:

The contribution of both the modes of learning i.e. the traditional and the e-learning can create a more conducive environment for teacher and the learners. This blended approach of learning will also be helpful for the teaching-learning practises [10]. The teacher needs to own the ability of analyse and applying the different learning ways created by E-learning. The teachers should motivate the learners for the use of multimedia as well as also work to meet the teaching objectives.

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