



Impact of E-Learning on Teaching and Learning in Higher Education

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Abstract

E-learning is the use of Internet technologies to enhance knowledge and performance. - learning refers to the use of Internet technologies to deliver a broad array of solutions that enhance knowledge and performance. Several efforts are currently progressing towards providing quality distance learning to more people in urban and rural areas, through the utilization of more effective web resources and practices. The major hindrance to the acceptance of e-learning can be attributed to the Indian mindset that is more inclined to traditional classroom teaching.

Keywords: E-Learning, Teaching and Learning

Introduction

E-learning technologies offer educators a new paradigm based on adult learning theory, which states that adults learn by relating new learning to past experiences, by linking learning to specific needs, and by practically applying learning, resulting in more effective and efficient learning experiences. Learning enhancement permits greater learner interactivity and promotes learners' efficiency, motivation, cognitive effectiveness, and flexibility of learning style. Learning is a deeply personal experience: we learn because we want to learn. By enabling learners to be more active participants, a well-designed e-learning experience can motivate them to become more engaged with the content. Interactive learning shifts the focus from a passive, teacher-centered model to one that is active and learner centered, offering a stronger learning stimulus.

E-Learning and Higher Education

According to a recent study in a global level online learning program, after the United States, India has been reported to have the second highest number of online course enrollments with more than over 1,55,000 students from the country. Of a total of around 1.2 million students worldwide, 32% are from the U.S while 15% are from India. In higher education, there is a growing demand to create a virtual learning environment (VLE) in which all aspects of a course are handled through a consistent user interface throughout the institution. Some of these programs are initiated in our country and students need to attend orientation sessions in colleges, but the course content is delivered online. Several universities do offer online student support services, such as online advice and registration, e-counseling, online textbook purchase and student newspapers. E-learning has the potential to overcome the non-availability of adequately qualified teachers in rural India.

E-Learning and Its Effects on Teaching and Learning

E-learning according to Markus(2008) can be defined as a learning process created by interaction with digitally delivered content, network-based services and tutoring support E - learning is any technologically mediated learning using computers whether from a distance or in face to face classroom setting (computer assisted learning), it is a shift from traditional education or training to ICT-based personalized, flexible, individual, self-organized, collaborative learning based on a community of learners, teachers, facilitators, experts. E-learning is the use of Internet technologies to enhance knowledge and performance. E-learning technologies offer learners control over content, learning sequence, pace of learning, time, and often media, allowing them to tailor their experiences to meet their personal learning objectives. To manage access to e-learning materials, consensus on technical standardization and methods for peer review of these resources. E-learning presents numerous research opportunities for faculty, along with continuing challenges for



documenting scholarship. Innovations in e-learning technologies point toward a revolution in education, allowing learning to be individualized (adaptive learning), enhancing learners' interactions with others (collaborative learning), and transforming the role of the teacher.

The integration of e-learning into education can catalyze the shift toward applying adult learning theory, where educators will no longer serve mainly as the distributors of content, but will become more involved as facilitators of learning and assessors of competency. E-learning refers to the use of Internet technologies to deliver a broad array of solutions that enhance knowledge and performance. E-learning can be used by medical educators to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of educational interventions in the face of the social, scientific, and pedagogical challenges noted above. It has gained popularity in the past decade; however, its use is highly variable among medical schools and appears to be more common in basic science courses than in clinical clerkships.

Challenges to E-Learning

Some of the challenges that e-learning initiatives from the Institutions of Higher Education Management could face are:

- For those Institutions offering online e-learning course, awarding a Recognized Degree for students might become imperative. Most students and their potential employers are happy only when a certifying endorsement is given.
- A fall out of the above could be escalating a number of Online Institutions offering courses with spurious certificates, which may not have any value.
- Since, the e-learning method is self-paced and self-learned, the attention length of the student may not be enough for him/her to learn a concept.
- Generally the duration of the course also matters in this mode of lecture delivery.
- Lastly, the Legal implications of e-learning come into play. Once again, we should not forget that e-learning over internet is across geographical boundaries. This makes it all the more, tougher for the enforcing authorities to have a global legal framework for the net offender.

Many institutions have started augmenting teacher-led programmes with content-rich e-learning modules. Government initiatives are not far behind either. The projection for further development of distance e-Learning in India is positive. Several efforts are currently progressing towards providing quality distance learning to more people in urban and rural areas, through the utilization of more effective web resources and practices. The major hindrance to the acceptance of e-learning can be attributed to the Indian mindset that is more inclined to traditional classroom teaching.

Future Trends of e-learning in India

Future Trends in e-learning Business-to employee initiatives will address e-learning: Companies can build B2E intranets or corporate portals to conduct business with employees, and provide them self-service for access to benefits, forms and information. B2E capabilities will become increasingly important tools for recruitment, retention, and employee-relationship management.

E-learning will extend to customers: CRM initiatives might include customer education. Companies can use e-learning to introduce new products, educate customers in self-service techniques, and compare competitors' products and services

- Simulation, gaming and interactivity will enrich e-learning: Research shows that student understanding and retention improves when they learn by experience. Technologies such as collaboration, interactivity, modeling, simulations, virtual reality interfaces and gaming will help students experience the skill while being taught.



- There will never be enough of the right skills: Along with technologies and business practices, some skills are changing so quickly that they're outdated within a few months of introduction. In addition, the number and range of skills required of the average employee is increasing.

In this era of information technology, the emergence of globalization of knowledge economy has resulted in digital online learning in higher education system. E-learning could have potentially major effects on the way higher education is designed, implemented and delivered.

Conclusion

Higher education institutions must determine the most suitable environments and courses for e-learning delivery. Though Indians have been traditionally inclined towards conventional classroom based academic programs, the Government of India has been actively supporting the e-learning drive to overcome the various challenges and to strengthen accessibility. E-learning is growing at very low rate in India as compared to international market where it has been used at all levels. In India if we can be able to make e-learning as a source of learning in rural areas then it is the easiest and fastest tool to educate people.

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