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Chetanya Saxena* and Prakrati Chaturvedi

Department of Education, Rabindranath Tagore University Bhopal MP, India

Email: chetanya.saxena2010@gmail.com



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Department of Education, Rabindranath Tagore University Bhopal MP, India

Email: chetanya.saxena2010@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Education, in itself is a vast field of interest and research. It is a vibrant process which can be obtained from various institutes. One such well known and popular institute is school which provides education to all students of different age, different economic background, different region, different mental status and so on with other co-curricular activities that can develop an individual's personality and boost up the optimism and cheery percentage along with the awareness, knowledge of skills required to lead a flourishing life.

The 21st century learners live in such a society which is very gradually -more diverse, more versatile, and media-drenched. Our learners of today are facing many challenges like population bang, environmental degradation, social safety issues and etc. No doubt, they are a compulsory part of social interactive communication. These students or learners communicate to their mentors or friends through various social networking platforms like WhatsApp, messenger, Twitter, Facebook. So one of the most essential roles of the teacher or educator today is to spot out the necessity of the student and to train or skill them accordingly.

Our world is changing day to day. We are every day designing new technical devices, busy in new scientific discoveries. So to live today in this progressing world we have to bend ourselves with the wind. Imparting of knowledge is very tricky, expensive, time-consuming and sometimes even does not guarantee results, but e-learning has the package of solutions to all such various problem.

This paper focuses on the significance of E-learning in modern education. Nowadays, the perception of E-learning is becoming very famous. Faster bandwidths have also facilitated in boosting up of the expansion of E-Learning. And hence the numbers of internet savvy users are also increasing day by day. Therefore, many institutions including universities are hiring E-Learning Big corporate companies to set up interactive classrooms for providing higher education. Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), the world's largest Open University had launched a 24x7 E-learning satellite channel called Gyan Darshan.

Keywords: E-learning, modern education, time savvy, low cost, loss of interest, technology, internet

INTRODUCTION

India is comprising of one of the biggest education systems in this world. It mainly consists of three parts – university, college, and school where the higher education and schools are governed by the university grants commission (UGC) also sometimes professional councils, central or state boards respectively [9].

In the last few years in corona virus pandemic, the education system moved into drastic change. The preventive measure of COVID is only social distancing led the worldwide into a strict lockdown. The educational institutes were also forced to shut down for an indistinct time which further led to an e-learning mode of education [6]. The modern technology and its innovation made this online mode of education very easy, simple, approachable and also possible to all even in this crisis.

The term not only means online learning but more than that. The letter “e” in E- learning stands for

“electronic”. Means to say that E-learning is a process of gaining knowledge through digital or web based gadgets like smart phones, computers, laptops, tablets. Here learning materials are provided electronically to all learners sitting in remote areas via internet network. It includes all types of educational activities carried out by individuals or groups working either online or offline [18].

A learner sitting in any area through E- learning can digitally access knowledge of any selected subject through any digital gadget supported by internet connectivity from anywhere across the world [3]. It completely varies from early traditional learning methods where the physical presence of both teachers and learners are required. Other than this, the most important benefit is for a learner that all his desired information is accessible freely on the internet.

Thanks a lot to this utmost invention of the recent years. We can swap over and enrich our knowledge

immediately. Our ancestors were not having such a astonishing time period, so surely we should not misuse it. The needs of today's working people or students/learners are considerably changed. At the present time, to get a good opportunity, the job applicants in spite of having higher education have to be much advanced in technology and foreign languages. The more knowledge full and additional skillful you are, the more probability for you to be successful. It is a type of lifelong gaining knowledge through digital platform [1, 5].

Reasons for gaining popularity

The big benefit of E-learning is the hassle free interactions between learners and teacher. It is free from all types of bondages like limitations of time and space availability [10]. E-learning is usually a network based teaching and learning communications technology. It can be done in various ways like online learning, virtual learning, distributed learning, network and web-based learning [2].

As per the KPMG report, there are several reasons for preferring e-learning by learners /students and working professionals. Some of the them are discussed here below:

- **Time litness\ flexibility:** This is universal truth that working professionals have very limited time with them to continue any offline course. Pursuing such courses in online approach facilitate a person to multi-task with other works and family commitments.

The learners can do the learning sitting at any place, anywhere, any time. They can make use of the most of their time more efficiently. It is time-savvy when compared to the traditional learning. It saves travel costs and time.

- **A practicable and unique alternative**

E-learning is a platform where learning is free from many restrictions like age, religion, region, gender, nationality, and even language of delivering lecture. It is free to all those who want to acquire knowledge or willing to spread out their skills in their desired area of interest [19].

With the outburst of a pandemic, e-learning has appeared as an irreplaceable medium of learning through various modes of learning and skills, that too from the individuals own comfort and

convenience zone. The teaching or the learning can be done sitting anywhere, anyplace and at any time.

- **Quality education:** There are many areas in India where quality offline education is found deficient may be due to any reason. States such Bihar, Kerala, as well as Jammu and Kashmir there is scarcity of good educational institutes, and if institute is there no one wants to go there either for study or for job.

For such cases, e learning proves to be the best method of teaching and learnings by the use of their web based gadgets aided by internet. There they can gain quality education. For the learning process, no physical presence is mandatory now.

- **Budget-friendly courses:** It is cheap when compared to the traditional learning. Online courses are much affordable than traditional teachings. A long list of expenses like traveling fare, fuel price, printing material costs and cafeteria expenses etc. can be saved by opting online courses [12]. For higher education or preparatory exams no need to go for costly coaching institutes or purchase different books or notes. All of them and in better quality are available in web based digital platforms.

E-learning is quite pocket-friendly as it reduces many other expenses which are listed as the chief necessities in traditional learning. It also saves our travelling time to our institution which we can use in learning of any other skills.

- **Immediate results:** Candidates those who had appeared of any examination can get their results very immediately through online mode which help them in further preparation of exams more efficiently. and without wasting of time.
- **Quality study material:** Studies says that the learning is best when it is audio and video aided. This E-learning is revolving around the screen including both audio and video platform together [16]. So the youngsters or the learners are attracted by the features of this online classes such as audio clips, videos, graphics, illustrations. Numerous online quality study material is available in digital platform in the form of audios, videos audio-video and texts which are cheering and encouraging students to adopt online education platforms.

- **Stress free learning:** The learners do not have taken the stress to travel upto destination and reach there on time. Therefore, the learner is mentally free and can learn the lesson anywhere, anytime any place more affectively.
- **More interactive for weak learners** It is more interactive and explanatory and this feature is more beneficiary for weak students. They can even pause and rewind to understand the concept again. In traditional teachings, once or the twice the teaching can be repeated but not many times [13]. Therefore, it is acts as a major cause of its popularity among the students' especially weaker ones.

It empowers one's interacting powers, even the introverts feel hassle free to communicate with their mentors, friends etc. The weaker students now, by understanding the concept of studies has developed his/her confidence level and feels very happy in standing shoulder to shoulder with good ones. Online mode has somehow helped us in achieving education goals.

- **No limitation of seat allotment in a course:** There is no limitation for the students' enrollment in online courses. Any number of students can be enrolled here unlike the traditional learning where the number of learners per class or course is limited.

So now, many students can opt the same course which was not possible in earlier traditional studies. And thus many interested students do not get admission in desired course so they have to opt other subject which is not of their interest. Ultimately their results are affected and they lose hope for their future [23].

- **Reduced weight of school bags**

One of the major negative aspects of conventional education is the weight of school bags that are to carried on the shoulders by the learners regularly, as a result of which they facing the backache problem. The e-learning is the best solution of this [25]. The learners do not have to carry books with them to long distances as everything is available on the internet.

- **Saving Trees**

For traditional education, Books, pen, pencil, rubber are the basic requirements which are manufactured

trees, For the fulfillment of the market of these demands number of trees are cut and hence they are becoming less and less by each passing day. By the less use of these materials, trees can be saved. Ultimately this e-learning is very helpful in saving for our future by saving our trees [17].

- **Government initiatives:** By seeing the importance and need of online education Government is also showing interest by launching several programmes like SWAYAM, e-Basta, and Digital India which is expected to strengthen the infrastructure looked-for by learners to continue online mode of education [22].

Other flexibilities: The major benefit of E-learning is that it allows us to learn at our own convenience and at our own pace in comfort zone no matters the course is short time course or full time course or any degree.

Here we can grasp the freedom to rewind and go back to the recorded sessions if we forget or missed important points in between the lecture or demonstrations. In this way we can understand the topic better and more clearly.

No physical attendance is mandatory, we can focus more towards our learnings and can understand it better and easily according to our situation. Means to say it is a stress free learning also.

At present situation due to our hectic schedule, we are more dependent on online courses. Therefore, it is tough to remove its roots out of the area of Learning and Development. E-Learning is within our approach so reasonably priced solution for the learners in acquiring knowledge. In the due course of social media or digital platforms, education has reached to its height [15]. Today the learner is quite smart and intelligent in the use of technologies, messaging text and using the internet. This has made to access the online courses more efficiently like on their fingertips.

An advantage of E-learning is that it can be used at the same time by a large population spread throughout the world. The lectures once prepared can be delivered many times which can see or used by the student according to his/her convenience and can rewind or forward the lectures or can view content that pertains to their need.

A learner can also filter through the course and can participate only in his/her relevant section. This saves the learners as well as the company's time, internet data and cost.

- **Best way of competitive exam preparation**

These days the numbers of students opting for online platform for exam preparation are raising significantly. There are many online coaching preparing for exams like JEE, NEET, CAT, bank PO, CLAT, NET etc. which either acts as an alternate or complement of the existing offline test preparation institutes. Candidates are more prone toward taking online test prep for entrance courses (related to streams such as Engineering, Medical, and Law).

Online platform helps the students to prepare more efficiently for various competitive exams. The ways it is helpful to candidate are as follows:

1. **Mock tests:** Mock test is a series of test which gives the candidate a comparative assessment (with other students) of their performance. It is very much helpful to students in their preparation of various exams as they to know weak and strong areas as well as the exam pattern of the competitive exam they are scheduling to appear for.

So now, it is emerging out as a popular part of the online course. They are getting so much popularity that even the online platforms are attracting the students by giving them the greed of mock tests.

2. **Webinar:** A webinar is nothing but an online mode of conducting any seminar. Through this platform many online players deliver their lectures or demonstrations for more conceptual clarity on any particular topic.
3. **Videos:** Studies has proved that the best way of learning is by seeing and hearing. So videos very helpful in easy and simple conceptual learning. It also helps the students in solving exam question papers and other weak areas of their subject.
4. **Counseling:** These days in the online exam preparation market, the players have also started as a differentiator, players in the online test prep market have also started proposing

course and career oriented counseling services to students.

E-learning has the potential to be an alternative option to traditional classroom learning. It is particularly favorable to students living in far-off areas. With so many advantages e-learning nowadays, is growing as a vital part of both academic and professional education. More Hard work or efforts are required to work on the dimension that how web based education can be explored easily, how can be made more appealing for more effective online teachings. The only way to gain this target is to think of appropriate pedagogical methods, which can enhance more on interaction between learners and the teacher and can be engage the learners well [25].

Shortcomings of e-learning

With the above mentioned advantages contrarily, e-learning also have some of the disadvantages. A few are listed below. Let's have a quick glance on few of them:

- **Extended screen exposure**

E-learning can't be think without screen. More the learning, more is the exposure to screen. It may not look usual but surplus exposure of the screen is not suggested both for children as well adults. Prolonged exposure to screen can affect our children's physical and mental progress. Sometimes even, it can affect their behavioral pattern.

Prolonged Screen exposure also have bad physical affects. It can weaken eyesight and even can be the reason of disease migraines at an early age

- **lack of classroom experience**

Class room means fun of sitting with friends, sharing of tiffin's in lunch breaks, joy of playing in games periods, punishment etc. While online classes give the picture of student sitting alone in a room with all his/her study materials focusing on the smart gadget.

In spite of serving endless conveniences, during online classes we fail to spot the thrill and the actual fun of learning with classmates. In simple words it can be said that, by regular use of the social media we are isolating ourselves into a room life which will ultimately be the major cause of physical and mental illness.

➤ **Lack of face to face communication and discipline**

E-learning lacks the confronting between the teacher and student. Due to this, teacher can never figure out whether the learner is attentive in the class or doing his/her assignment on time or not as digital learning does not provide physical presence of the teacher during the class or the test. The assignments which are uploaded by the students are most of the times copied and pasted from the internet. The children knowledge thus can never judge. And hence, the students are forgetting all the discipline of class.

➤ **Lack of internet access in an underprivileged area**

In Digital learning the learner has to access lessons of the teacher who is sitting miles far from the screen [4]. For E-learning, smart gadgets, good bandwidth of internet is required which is sometimes not possible sometimes may be due to high prices and approach of convenient tools or facilities. Lack of internet facilities is a big issue in rural and sometimes even in urban areas.

The students who belongs to either less stable economic background or underprivileged areas are unable in accessing online classes., One more reason of financial collapse can be the loss of job during this pandemic due to which some families still were unable to pay for extra conveniences.

One more thing to be noted here, that the students whose family members are busy in their work from home due to pandemic are also latched from the facility of attending online classes.

➤ **lack of practical knowledge**

The students those who were full time busy on screen for either their classes or for the work provided by the teacher in online classes lacks in practical knowledge. Even the smart students are also lacking it. They are busy in copying their works away from the practical world.

➤ **Physical and mental illness**

E-learning means learning on screen by the use of smart tools. In this period, the learners screen time is extended as a result of which eyes of the learners are

effected. Concentration power is reduced [24]. Sometimes, the learner on the name of study is found busy in other social platforms. The other social platforms are so much attractive and full of entertainment that the child even starts revolting their parents or elders. And becomes aggressive.

In simple words it can be said that, by regular use of the social media we are isolating our kids into a room life which will ultimately be the major cause of their physical and mental illness.

➤ **No security of information**

Another growing challenge is the security on the internet which is now public to all due to open access to the universal network [14]. Not only this, a high-bandwidth network and a smart gadget is also a basic requirement in the e-learning process.

The main reason of popularity of E-learning is that it is almost free of cost. We need not have to spend time and above all it can be used whenever and wherever according to our convenience. Even sometimes, the candidate is also given certificate for passing his/her exam.

An advantage of e-learning, in this period of pandemic due to COVID 19 according to Dobrin (1999) is that 85% of the faculty teaching online courses says that student learning outcomes are comparable to or better than those found in offline classrooms [8].

Brandon Hall article in published in Forbes, says that the learners in online classes enjoy the efficiency benefit where the same study material is covered in almost half of time comparing to the traditional classes. Additionally, a large number of students can be enrolled or taught in a shorter period [11].

According to McLeod (2006) and Alt-Media, (2012), the learners or the employees anytime, anywhere, anyone can access their learning or trainings when it is convenient to them either at home or in the office [17].

Many big companies like Reliance, Tata and Godrej etc. are investing a lot in E-learning and setting up their interactive classrooms as they want to ensure that their employees and their partners are to be equipped with latest information and skills. so for this, these companies are sometimes also hiring the effective and efficient training providing online apps.

For such needs, many of online courses and certificate programs are nowadays offered by the higher education institutes or universities worldwide [21, 26-30].

MIT in 2001, has assured to provide all his resources free of cost on the web for the noncommercial use.

CONCLUSION

According to the present trends, the market of online classes is expected to witness significant growth in upcoming few years. Since these courses are restricted to theoretical content only, so for the practical point of view, concepts of virtual classes can be adopted.

E-learning can be sometimes least effective to traditional classroom learning. Actually, learning is a socio-cognitive activity so all student will not find e-learning suitable for his/her learning style. Sometime learner gets bored in sitting for long time in front of the screen. E-learning sometimes cannot replace traditional classroom learning.

Another growing challenge is the security on the internet which is now public to all due to open access to the universal network. Not only this, a high-bandwidth network and a smart gadget is also a basic requirement in the e-learning process.

Providing education through conventional teaching can be very expensive, usually it is time-consuming and sometimes even does not guarantee

results, but e-Learning has the baggage of solutions of such problems. In the present era of fast growing, saving of time and money is a basic human need [7]. Nowadays, physical presence is not required to do the learning or the job for earning livelihoods. The whole thing is made available in this handy virtual world.

E-learning can conquer over the conventional education, by providing smart gadgets in place of heavy school bags, moreover, by providing learning sitting in their comfort zones. Even the government is also attracting the students of higher education to online classes by supplying them tablets with the course content fed in it. In the present scenario of modernization, e-learning can be much more attractive, interesting and easy learning of the concepts, ultimately building confidence level of the learners.

With no doubt, e-learning has set its roots in the education field. Multimedia training opportunities have risen, with the rising speed of internet connections. Not only this, even other social platforms are also having great impact on education.

In spite of many advantages and the disadvantage, e-learning is the proved as a most significant need of our learners in this present times. It's we have to identify our needs and to work up on the particular social platform. The day is will be there when E-learning will turn out to be the upcoming popular method of education universally.

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