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E-Learning Revolutionise Education: An Exploratory study

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Abstract

The focus of the paper is to explore how e-learning revolutionise education. Education is one domain that has accompanied civilization throughout the centuries, adapting its tools to fulfill the expectations of students and the needs of teachers. One of the basic requirements for education in the 21st century is to prepare populations for participation in a knowledge-based economy, including the social and cultural perspectives. E-learning is a cornerstone for building inclusive knowledge societies. E-learning is the use of electronic educational technology in learning and teaching. The present study explored how e-learning revolutionise education system. E-Learning is learning that utilized electronic technologies to access educational curriculum outside of a traditional classrooms.

Keywords: E-Learning, Revolutionise, Education, Exploratory

1. INTRODUCTION

Electronic learning, or e-learning, is education based on modern methods of communication including the computer and its networks, various audio-visual materials, search engines, electronic libraries, and websites, whether accomplished in the classroom or at a distance. Generally speaking, this type of education is delivered through the medium of the World Wide Web where the educational institution makes its programs and materials available on a special website in such a manner that students are able to make use of them and interact with them with ease through closed or shared, networks, or the Internet, and through use of e-mail and online discussion groups. The definition of e-learning centers on its being a learning method and a technique for the presentation of academic curricula via the Internet or any other electronic media inclusive of multimedia, compact discs, satellites, or other new education technologies. The two parties participating in the educational process interact through these media to achieve specific educational objectives.

During the 1980s, the compact disc (CD) began to be used in education, but the fact that it lacked the quality of interaction between the student, the material and the teacher was an important flaw in the opinion of a number of educators. This problem was only resolved with the appearance of the Internet which justified the adoption of e-learning because it fulfilled the condition of immediacy or simultaneity. E-learning assists in the transformation of the educational process from the stage of learning by rote to one characterized by creativity, interaction and the development of skills. The student, in e-learning, is able to access educational materials at any time and from any place, thereby transforming the concepts of the educational process and learning to go beyond the limits imposed by

traditional classrooms into a rich environment in which there are numerous sources of learning.

Sources of programs of e-learning include experts in the field, ministries, corporations and other organizations concerned with the dissemination of technical applications in education. Programs are offered by way of closed or shared networks, as well as over the Internet, and e-mail and discussion groups are among the techniques and mechanisms employed in e-learning.



2. EDUCATION & E-LEARNING

Dramatic changes in the way people across the world live, play and entertain, have changed the way people learn too. Education sector has witnessed a sea change, given the changing demographics, changing industry expectations and a brave new world of youngsters who seek the power of knowledge in transforming their lives, with disdain for distances. Classroom learning is effective, but not the only option anymore. With Internet playing the great equalizer of our times, options like distance learning and self-based learning programs are much more effective, than they were before. Today, universities and knowledge leaders are able to deliver training to students in countless innovative ways. It is all about innovative use of technology, in ways that suit their situations best.

3. FEATURES OF E-LEARNING

1. Learning is self-paced and gives students a chance to speed up or slow down as necessary
2. Learning is self-directed, allowing students to choose content and tools appropriate to their differing interests, needs, and skill levels
3. Accommodates multiple learning styles using a variety of delivery methods geared to different learners; more effective for certain learners
4. Designed around the learner
5. Geographical barriers are eliminated, opening up broader education options
6. 24/7 accessibility makes scheduling easy and allows a greater number of people to attend classes
7. On-demand access means learning can happen precisely when needed

8. Travel time and associated costs (parking, fuel, vehicle maintenance) are reduced or eliminated
9. Overall student costs are frequently less (tuition, residence, food, child care)
10. Potentially lower costs for companies needing training, and for the providers
11. Fosters greater student interaction and collaboration
12. Fosters greater student/instructor contact
13. Enhances computer and Internet skills
14. Draws upon hundreds of years of established pedagogical principles
15. Has the attention of every major university in the world, most with their own online degrees, certificates, and individual courses



4. BENEFITS OF E-LEARNING

There are many significant advantages for the student who learns online. Here are just a few to consider:

Convenience and Portability

- ❖ Courses are accessible on your schedule
- ❖ Online learning does not require physical attendance
- ❖ Learning is self-paced (not too slow, not too fast)
- ❖ You're unbound by time - courses are available 24/7
- ❖ You're unbound by place - study at home, work, or on the road
- ❖ Read materials online or download them for reading later

Cost and Selection

- ❖ Choose from a wide range of courses to meet your needs
- ❖ Degree, Vocational, and Certificate programs
- ❖ Continuing Education
- ❖ Individual courses
- ❖ Wide range of prices to fit your budget
- ❖ Go back to school to get a degree, learn a new skill, learn a new craft, or just have fun!

- ❖ From art to zoology you can do it all online in a price range to fit your budget.

Flexibility

- ❖ Online learning accommodates your preferences and needs - it's student-centered
- ❖ Choose instructor-led or self-study courses
- ❖ Skip over material you already know and focus on topics you'd like to learn
- ❖ Use the tools best suited to your learning styles

Higher Retention

- ❖ Online learning will draw you to topics you like and enjoy. Studies show that because of this and the variety of delivery methods used to reach different types of learners, retention is frequently better than in a traditional classroom.

Greater Collaboration

- ❖ Technology tools make collaboration among students much easier. Since many projects involve collaborative learning, the online environment is far easier (and often more comfortable) to work in since learners don't have to be face-to-face.

Global Opportunities

- ❖ The global learning community is at your fingertips with online learning. The technologies used give online instructional designers the ability to build in tools that take you to resources you may never see in a traditional classroom.

5. CONCLUSION

E-Learning, Web2.0 applications, and the impact these resources are having on education are rapidly creating new challenges for instructor and learners faced with learning online. Teaching and learning in an e-learning environment happens differently than in the traditional classroom and can present new challenges to instructors and learners participating in this online learning environment. There is a need in e-learning to identify the challenges and consider best practice solutions to ensure instructor and learner success in this new learning environment. In order to understand the challenges associated with an e-learning environment it is important to define what the term e-learning means. Clark and Mayer help define e-learning as instruction delivered by any technological mode intended to promote learning (2011). Teaching and learning in an e-learning environment happens differently than in the traditional classroom and can present new challenges to instructors and learners participating in this online learning environment. Technology-assisted learning tools is quickly changing the face of education, transitioning the classroom only learning environment to an online only or blended online learning experience. The possible challenges instructors and learners face in an e-learning environment must be considered in order to ensure learner success.

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