"E-Learning: A New Revolution In Education"

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Abstract:

Knowledge is one treasure that no one can take away from us. We go to school to learn and gain knowledge which will eventually help us to become professionals. There are different kinds of learning institutions and these are private, non-private, religious, and government owned school. However the purpose of any school is to impart knowledge and learning to the students. Due to rapid change in technology, learning can also be acquired through the help of the internet and it is called e-learning. With the advent of new technology, changes in education system are taking place very rapidly. It is essential to learn and adapt new ways and techniques of teaching. Today Internet and Information Technology plays a very significant role in the economy as well as the education sector. In the present research we will study the role and importance of e-learning in the growth and development of the education system in India. However the research is based on secondary data.

Key words: Information technology, Information and Communication technologies, Information and learning technologies.

1.Introduction

India is a developing economy, which is also the world's second largest populated country in the globe. A large part of human resource in India is still Semi-skilled or Unskilled in nature. This is due to shortage or absence of learning and knowledge among the rural people. With the advent of new technology such as ICT, Internet, etc, the performance and efficiency of all sectors of the economy has improved a lot. Arrival of computer and internet in the field of education has changed the procedures and patterns of learning. Today anyone learns anywhere, anytime. Latest information and content is available at low cost. New technological terms have replaced the old terms such as:

- Banking :   e-banking
- Commerce: e-commerce
- Governance: e-governance
- Education: e- education
- Learning: e- learning
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Many authors have provided several definitions of e-learning in the past period. . Some of these definitions are as follows.

- Marc Rosenberg 2001 E-learning refers to the use of internet or wireless technologies to deliver a broad array of training solutions.
- American Society for Training and Development 2001 Defines e-learning as broadest of application and processes which include web based learning, computer based learning, virtual classroom and digital.
- Jugon 2003 E-learning was concerned with as internet based training or Web based training

2.What Is E-Learning?

Essentially, e-learning is 'technology-enhanced learning' (the definition often used by the European Commission) to emphasise that Information and Communication Technology is adding to, and enhancing, existing good practice and contributing to 'blended learning'. E-learning exploits interactive technologies and communication

systems to improve the learning experience. It has the potential to transform the way we teach and learn across the board. It can raise standards, and widen participation in lifelong learning. It cannot replace lecturers or tutors, but alongside traditional teaching methods, it can enhance the quality and reach of their teaching. It can enable every learner to achieve his or her potential and help to build an educational workforce empowered to change. It makes possible a truly ambitious education and training system for a future learning society. When used appropriately, e-learning has the potential to improve the quality of learning through using interactive computers, online communications, and information systems in ways that other teaching methods cannot match. It is relevant to all subjects and to learners at every stage of learning through its adaptability and its interactivity. E-learning can even reach out and re-engage people who are currently not involved in education because it is interactive and can adapt to their needs. When we see how on-line services are increasingly becoming an essential part of everyday life, it makes sense for education and training to mirror these changes and to build the skills needed for employability, as well as quality of life and citizenship.

E-learning has the potential to revolutionise the way we teach and how we learn. E-learning is about embedding and exploiting technologies in all aspects of teaching, and getting ICT embedded across the curriculum for all subjects and in the teaching practices of all tutors.

E-learning has the power to transform the way we learn, and to bring high quality, accessible learning to everyone – so that every learner can achieve his or her full potential. As well as Government, many others need to contribute to this learning revolution – education providers, employers and the e-learning industry. We must, also, share best practice across the education and workplace communities, so that learners can make a seamless transition as they progress.

E-learning is also about the skills we increasingly need for everyday life and work. In the changing world of the knowledge economy, ICT skills will help to boost productivity and competitiveness. Technologies can provide a more flexible, engaging and informative learning experience, meeting the expectations of today's learners.

3.E-learning Includes

- IT Information Technology - the computer infrastructure, hardware and software used to process data and deliver information

- ICT Information and Communication Technologies - the combination of computing and communication technologies (including computer networks and telephone systems)
- ILT Information and Learning Technologies - this is used to refer to the use of information and communication technologies to support the core activities of educational organisations.

4.Benefits Of E-Learning

The role of e-learning in education will grow substantially in the next decade. The drivers are partly economic, but growth is also driven by the rising demand from learners, who increasingly use technology in everyday life and who want more flexible forms of study and learning programmes better tailored to their needs. The benefits of e-learning are well documented and accepted. These benefits are not only for the Education sector, but also for the learner and the employer.

5.For The Education Sector

- E-learning is important for education because it can improve the quality of the learning experience, and extend the reach of every lecturer and tutor.
- E-learning can help remove barriers to achievement, by providing new and creative ways of motivating and engaging pupils and learners of all abilities, enabling and inspiring every one to attain their educational potential.
- E-learning can support learning by offering differentiated learning, particularly for those who need support in literacy, numeracy and ICT.
- E-learning offers a wide range of tools to enable teachers and learners to be innovative, creative and resourceful in all learning activities. Teachers and learners can easily customise digital learning resources to suit pace and level, appropriate to any learning style and ability.
- E-learning creates on-line communities of practice. The Internet can bring learners, teachers, specialist communities, experts, practitioners and interest groups together to share ideas and good practice.

6.For Learners

- E-learning can provide an individualised learning experience for all learners, including those who are disadvantaged, disabled, exceptionally gifted, have special curriculum or learning needs or who are remote or away from their usual place of learning.

- E-learning can facilitate wider participation and fairer access to further and higher education by creating the opportunity to start learning and to choose courses and support according to the learners' needs.

- E-learning provides personalised learning support through information, advice, and guidance services. It can help learners find the course they need, with a seamless transition to the next stage of their learning, including online application or enrolment and an electronic portfolio of their learning to take with them.

- E-learning provides virtual learning worlds where learners can take part in active and creative learning with others through simulations, role-play, remote control of real-world tools and devices, online master classes, etc.

7.Disadvantages Of E-Learning

- Hard for instructors to move traditional contents online.
- More time consuming for instructors to provide individual feedback
- Academic honesty of online students is required.
- Equity of access to learners of all background and parts of society lack
- Students may feel isolated as instructor may not always be available on demands.
- Slow or unreliable internet connection can be frustrating.

8.Levels Of E-Learning

8.1.Knowledge Database

While not necessary seen as actual training, these database are most basic form of e-learning, you have probably seen knowledge database on software site offering indexed explanations for software questions along with step by step instructions for performing specific tasks. There is usually moderately interactive meaning that you can either type in keyword or phrases to search the database or make a selection from an alphabetical list.

8.2.Online Support

Online support is also a form of learning and function in a similar manner to knowledge database. Online support in mainly in the form of delivering lectures through emails, online bulletin boards, chat rooms, etc. These modes of teaching provide students support instantly.

8.3.Asynchronous Training

This is e-learning in the more traditional sense of the world. It involves self paced training, either CD ROM based, Network based or Internet based.

8.4.Synchronous Training

This type of training is done in real time with a live instructor facilitating the training. Everyone logs in at a set time and can communicate directly with the instructor and with each other. This type of training usually takes place via internet, website, conferencing, etc.

9.Need For Change

- It is vital that we collectively explore new and innovative ways of meeting the skills needs of both employers and learners. Increasingly organisations will demand alternative methods of delivery that are flexible and manageable and not constrained by traditional teaching methods and timetables. This will help ensure that the whole of the workforce, particularly those employed in small organisations, and those working variable shift patterns, can access education at a time and place that suits them.

- A strategic approach to e-learning will also be necessary to support the implementation of a range of policy developments for the development of the students. Ultimately, centre accreditation will increasingly require an e- learning and e-assessment capability in the delivery of qualifications.

- Whilst e-assessment could be used to accredit a qualification, irrespective of the mode of teaching and learning, the full benefits of e-learning to the learner, centres and employers can only be realised if it is coupled with the widespread introduction of e-assessment. This joint approach is essential if learners and

employers are to achieve the flexibility they need to get full value from the introduction of e-learning.

- The Present Education System recognizes the benefits that technology can bring to teaching and learning. It accepts that it is not enough to have pockets of best practice and will aim, therefore, to have an E-Learning Strategy that impacts on all its learners.

10.Conclusion

It is true that e-learning is very helpful to students and others persons associated with it but there are several challenges associated with it. The first problem is the "are we ready for e-learning". This is concerned with the transformation of the traditional education system into new and Cyber education system. For this we also have to upgrade our infrastructural and technological facilities. The another challenge is lack of funds to adapt new and scientific ways of teaching. New techniques comprises of Projectors, Digital boards, etc. For this huge investment is needed. So all these factors determines the growth and awareness of the people about e-learning.

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