E - Learning: A 21st Century Approach to Education and Government Initiatives in India

Dr. Manju Khosla

Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce, Gargi College, University of Delhi

Abstract

World is changing very fast, and for the survival we have to prepare ourselves and our children. The demand of this changing world is to change the curriculum of traditional education with modern education which is based on electronic gadgets. So that everyone become tech-savvy. A learning which is systematically designed with the help of electronic sources is known as E-learning. With this platform, number of users gets education at the same or at different times, as per their convenience. E-learning is also termed as E- education and this concept is increasing day by day because of number of reasons. Now a day's people want to get more than one degree and this is only possible when the education is based on electronic system. There are so many short term certification courses are launched by companies to educate their employees or try to inculcate more skills to them with the help of these courses. There are so many platforms used by companies to educate students as well. Distance education is only possible with the help of electronic sources. During COVID 19, this concept becomes more popular. Now, India is witnessing an e-learning boom since the pandemic emerged. Through this paper, author is trying to focus on emerging trends in E-education system, their benefits, drawbacks, impact on the users & government initiatives.

Keywords: invention, tech-savvy, systematically designed, distance education, e-Learning,

Introduction

Necessity… the mother of invention [1]. In 21st century we all want to get everything very fast and at our door step. So, companies or government make this possible with the help of this term "e" like – e-governance, e-marketing, e-business, e-book, e-consultation, e-learning etc., and this "e" stands for electronic. Today without Google no one can imagine world, so World Wide Web (www) is a necessity. During COVID 19, college's, schools, offices everything is closed, businesses are totally shut. We can't imagine world without education so the government came with the solution that during pandemic, courses will run through electronic platforms like – Google Meet, MS – Teams, Google Classroom, Zoom etc., with this system students engaged with teachers and completed their education. The experience that we got from this system that if we will start education in hybrid mode then might be more number of students will be benefited.

Significance of the study

In this changing world everyone wants to learn something extra, which distinct them from others. During night, weekends or off days, which is only possible through hybrid mode. The traditional mode of education is not in demand right now because everyone has electronic gadgets, there is no boundary of space and time. Working people also get knowledge through this mode easily. In schools, colleges, universities and research institutes have their own computer labs, every room has projectors, with the help of that teachers can teach

their students very well and students are also taking part in the conversation. The classes will be very interactive. E-learning have so many benefits like it is learners centric, life long, interactive, time saving, personalised etc.

Literature review

Siti Nurmiati, Abdul Karim Mohamad, Sazalinsyah Razali[2] – this paper is based on the citation analysis related to the e-learning topic, published in peer-reviewed journals, during the year 2015-2020. The study focuses on the importance of literature review.

M. Samir Abou El-Seoud , Islam A.T.F. Taj-Eddin, Naglaa Seddiek , Mahmoud M. El-Khouly , Ann Nosseir[3] – the study analyses that how the use of interactive sessions of e-learning increases the motivation of students, either they are in under graduate, post-graduate or in higher studies. Author has suggested number of ways, that how to increase motivation among students during online classes.

Sujit Kumar Basak, Marguerite Wotto and Paul Be´langer[4]- this study is based on the conceptual definition and comparative analysis of m-learning, e-learning & d-learning. The study also reveals the benefits and disadvantages of m-learning, e-learning & d-learning. This paper also analyse the methodology which is defined by Arksey and O'Malley (2005), the five framework stages and the relationship between these learning's.

A Gunasekaran, Ronald D. McNeil and Dennis Shaul[5]- this paper focuses on the meaning, literature review and the importance of e-learning. The study reveals that how e-learning improves the quality and effectiveness of online access. E- learning is not only cost-effective and there are so many other benefits like it is flexible, convenient to use, wide reach, easy accessibility, consistency.

Signe Schack Noesgaard1, and Rikke Ørngreen [6] - This paper focused on the measurement of e-learning effectiveness, effective e-learning solutions. The study is based on 761 research papers related to this study. The study has defined explorative and integrative review of e-learning definitions, methodologies and factors that promote e-Learning effectiveness.

Marko tuševljak, Lucija Majcen, Lara Mervar, Taisiya Stepankina, Barbara Cate[7] – This study is based on two objectives, first one is related to the students attitudes and experience towards knowledge and perception of e-learning. The second objective is to assess student's readiness e-learning and their willingness to pay for it. Data collected through primary source of 104 respondents. And the finding suggests that have mixed approach towards e-learning. A finding suggests that students prefer traditional learning method as well as studies based on electronic sources.

Shirley Alexander[8]- This study defines a framework for the e-learning systems within higher education which is based on successful design, development and
Implementation of resources. In the study it is mentioned that what are the experiences of students and what strategies are implemented by teachers towards e-learning.

Said Khalfa Mokhtar Brika, Khalil Chergui, Abdelmageed Algamdi, Adam Ahmed Musa and Rabia Zouaghi [9]- This paper reveals a bibliometric overview of e-learning in higher education that has been published during COVID-19. E-learning has been used in the academic and professional communities. This article covered 602 studies based on literature review of e-learning, during the period of (2020-21). The

database which was published in the Web of Science (WoS) and it was examined by using VOSviewer, CiteSpace, and KnowledgeMatrix Plus.

Aminul mansuri, Balram solanki, Jayprakash lamoria [10]- the study analysed the users opinion and try to explain that users are right person to explain the meaning of e-learning and the platforms which were used for e-learning by their school/college or educational institutes. The e-learning platform which is cost effective and mostly is preferred by users are the main concern of the article. The study is based on primary data of 200 respondents with the help of questionnaire. The article concluded that both male & female prefer e-learning because it is convenient.

B.Rajesh, Vaishali Singh [11]- aimed to clarify the impact of e-learning on students of colleges. The study is based on 50 respondents and the study also proved that e-learning provides greater flexibility to students as well as instructors. Very convenient is one of the benefit and the drawback is that every student have their own electronic gadget.

M L H Khan, and A Setiawan[12] – the study analyse that e-learning on higher education gives positive impact on students their perception, skills, critical thinking and satisfaction level is increased. The study also suggested that there is a need of regular test etc to check the improvement level of students. There are so many benefits as well as drawback of this system.

Hassan Abuhassna , Waleed Mugahed Al-Rahmi, Noraffandy Yahya, Megat Aman, Zahiri Megat Zakaria, Azlina Bt. Mohd Kosnin, and Mohamad Darwish[13] - explored and investigate the factors that influence students' academic achievements and satisfaction with using online learning platforms. The study is based on two methods; one is Transactional Distance Theory (TDT) and second is Bloom's Taxonomy Theory (BTT). Research based on 243 students. The research illustrates eleven factors for analysing the academic achievements.

Objectives

➢   To find out the reasons of choosing E- learning over traditional learning.
➢   To find out the benefits and drawbacks of E-learning.
➢   To analyse the impact of E-learning on school and college going students.
➢   To analyse government initiatives in India.

Research methodology
The study is based on secondary data, which is collected from books, journals, newspapers and websites etc.

Benefits of E-learning –

➢   In the e-learning system user is free to learn anytime and from anywhere, there is no boundary. This system is also known as Learner-Centric Learning.
➢   It's a life-long learning process; there is no age related barrier.
➢   E-learning motivates users to collaborate and interact with peer group as well as teachers too.
➢   It is a personalized or customized learning system, according to the users, programme is made by companies.

➢   Effective Communication is also one of the benefits of e-learning. The two-way communication channel is formed between teacher & learner and among other users.

NUMBER OF ONLINE INSTITUTION UP BY 38%

TYPE OF HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS (HEI)	No. OF TOTAL HEIS FOR ONLINE PROGRAMMES	No. OF PROGRAMMES FOR ONLINE	STUDENT ENROLLMENT IN 2021-22 FOR ONLINE PROGRAMME		TOTAL STUDENT ENROLLMENT FOR ONLINE PROGRAMME
			INDIAN	INTERNATIONAL	
Central University	4	21	9884	4	9888
State University	17	119	6041	64	6105
Deemed to be University	30	159	35353	1507	38860
Private University	12	46	18745	802	72400

Table continue…

ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-23 AND ONWARDS AS ON 17.10.2022 66 HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS HEIS ARE RECOGNISED/ENTITLED TO OFFER ONLINE PROGRAMMES

COMPARATIVE STATUS	2020-21	2021-22	INCREASE (%)
No. of HEIs for online	42	58	38
No. of programmes for online	237	345	45.6
Indian enrolment for online	21954	70023	219
International enrolment for online	3951	2377	-39.8
Total enrolment (Fresh admissions) for online	25905	70023	107.3
No. of HEIs for ODL	96	86	-7.5
No. of programmes for ODL	1066	1078	1.1
Total enrolment (fresh admissions) for ODL	1438101	2037676	41.7

* *Source -* Manash Pratim Gohain Enrolment for online education up 170% in 2022, distance learning 42%, *Times of India*, October 28, 2022.

This figure is showing how online programmes are increasing day by day. In 2020-21 total enrolment for ODL was 14, 38,101 and in 2021-22 it was increased by 41.7% i.e. was 20, 37,676. Similarly total Indian enrolment for online was 21,954 in the year 2020-21 and it was increased by 219% by 2021-22 i.e. 70,023.

Drawbacks of E-learning

➢   It is costly, because for this system electronic gadgets are required.
➢   There is no face to face communication in this system.
➢   Users are suffering with eye sight issues.
➢   Internet is a major issue of this system.

Effective tool during COVID-19

Something is better than nothing, is one of the best quotes. During COVID – 19, everything was completely shut. Schools & colleges were locked, so the electronic source was the only way left for education. During the pandemic only, people knew more about e-learning, their benefits and drawbacks. Students suffered with so many psychological disorders because the peer group fun they were missing. Face to face interaction with their teachers and friends was not possible. But the benefit was that their academic sessions were smoothly going on.

Government initiatives for digital education in India
These are the few Government of India shaping e-learning with digital pedagogy.

➢   PM E-Vidhya – launched on 17 May 2020. The target of this initiative was to cover 25 crore school students across the country.

➢   DIKSHA – announced in 2017, with the objective on One Nation, One Digital Platform". This is for 1 -12 grade students. It contains e-content of respective curriculum, assignments and so on.

➢   SWAYAM Prabha TV – It includes 32 channels for educational channels with the objective of "One Class, One Channel". This channel is tied up with Airtel and TaTaSky.

➢   VIDYADAAN – objective to seek donations & contribution for the digital educational resource.

➢   E – Pathshala – This initiative is not for only students but also for teachers and parents.

Limitation

The literature study has certain limitations**:** firstly, it is based on secondary data. Secondly, E-learning data before pandemic is not available. Thirdly, not able to collect data from Scopus or Web of Sciences.

Conclusion

        E-learning is very much required in this competitive era. It has lots of benefits. One important thing related to e-learning that is quality. At school level children's like traditional learning (chalk & talk). And it is good too because traditional teaching create closeness & wellbeing which is very much required. During traditional learning, mentor will show some pictures or videos which make education interesting. In higher education students prefer number of degrees simultaneously via online, so this education system is easy.

References

1. Plato, *The Repubic*, Penguin Classics.
2. Siti Nurmiati, Abdul Karim Mohamad, Sazalinsyah Razali, "Literature Review of E-Learning Since 2015 – 2020", *Advances in Engineering Research,* Volume 207, Atlantis Press International B.V., 2021, pp. 412-421.
3. M. Samir Abou El-Seoud , Islam A.T.F. Taj-Eddin , Naglaa Seddiek, ‚Mahmoud M. El-Khouly, Ann Nosseir, "E-Learning and Students' Motivation: A Research Study on the Effect of E-Learning on Higher Education", *International Journal of Emerging Technologies in Learning*, Volume 9, Issue 4, 2014, pp.20-26.
4. Sujit Kumar Basak, Marguerite Wotto and Paul Be´langer, "E-learning, M-learning and D-learning: Conceptual definition and comparative analysis", *E-Learning and Digital Media*, Sage Publications, Vol. 15(4), 2018, pp.191–216.
5. A. Gunasekaran, Ronald D. McNeil and Dennis Shaul, "E-learning: research and applications", Emerald Publications, *Industrial and Commercial Training* Volume 34, No. 2 . 2002 . pp. 44-53.
6. Signe Schack Noesgaard, and Rikke Ørngreen, "The Effectiveness of E-Learning: An Explorative and Integrative Review of the Definitions, Methodologies and Factors that Promote e-Learning Effectiveness", *The Electronic Journal of e-Learning*, Volume 13 Issue 4 2015, pp. 278-290.
7. Marko Tuševljak , Lucija Majcen, Lara Mervar, Taisiya Stepankina , Barbara Cate,
    "E-learning in higher education: focus groups and survey among students in central Europe", *i-manager's Journal of Educational Technology*,Vol. 13, No. 2, July – September, 2016, pp. 11-20.

8.   Shirley Alexander, "E-learning developments and experiences", *Education and Training*, Volume 43 No. 4/5, 2001, pp. 240-248.

9.   Said Khalfa Mokhtar Brika, Khalil Chergui, Abdelmageed Algamdi, Adam Ahmed Musa and Rabia Zouagh, "E-learning higher research trends in higher education in light of COVID – 19: A Bibliometric Analysis", *Frontiers in Psychology*, Vol. 12., March 2022, pp. 1-10.

10. Aminul Mansuri, Balram Solanki, Jayprakash lamoria, "Study on e-learning platforms", *International Journal of Creative Research Thoughts*, Volume 9, Issue 4, April 2021, pp. 3701-3706.

11.   B.Rajesh, Vaishali Singh, Anum Noori, Shrasti, Babita Yadav, Vikas Kumar,Vikas, Mohd Zunaid , "A study to assess impact of e- Learning on student -learning in Selected college of Teerthanker Mahaveer University, Moradabad", *Journal of Emerging Technologies and Innovative Research*, Volume 8, Issue 7, July 2021, pp. 950-957.

12. M L H Khan, and A Setiawan, "The impact of E- learning on higher education perception, skills, critical thinking and satisfaction", *Journal of Physics: Conference Series* 1375, IOP Publishing Ltd., 2019,pp. 1-6.

13.   Hassan Abuhassna , Waleed Mugahed Al-Rahmi, Noraffandy Yahya, Megat Aman Zahiri Megat Zakaria, Azlina, Mohd Kosnin and Mohamad Darwish, "Development of a new model on utilizing online learning platforms to improve students' academic achievements and satisfaction", *International Journal of Educational Technology in Higher Education*, Springer Publication, 17:38, 2020, pp. 1-23.