



College student's perspective on the effectiveness of e-learning practices as compare to traditional practices

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ABSTRACT

The practice of information technologies promotes colleges to provide effectual and current information services. When, staff and students are capable of using these technologies in an effective manner. The changing paradigm of these communication technologies has no doubt gained a momentum in Indian higher education. The Internet is used by faculty, staff, and students in obtaining information. Information and communication, the teaching, learning and research activities in the college will be much easier for the students to further enhance their knowledge. ICT usage will enable development since there will be a free flow of information. The electronic revolution, specifically, the Internet is tapering the information gap. The power of web technology is allowing the producers of a variety of information to distribute their creativity at low cost and high speed. The internet is the doorway for researchers, colleges, and information centres to move into the electronic information era and is delivering the information, generated by different organizations, institutions, research centres and individuals all over the world.

INTRODUCTION

An abbreviation for electronic learning, e-learning signifies the use of computer and similar other devices to impart education. This type of learning mostly employs technology and Internet to access educational material or sources, in contrary to traditional classroom methods. E-learning is completely about using electronic technologies for educational prospects outside the boundaries of traditional classroom and, of course, it is gaining popularity especially among the younger generation over the past decade because of its easy accessibility. Information technology is globally used and it is a major force for change among the masses.

Information technology is a dynamic subject which is continuously producing and developing new ideas opportunities for development of education system by providing e-learning options for education. E-learning is a tool which is useful for enhancing the quality of teaching and learning often defined as an "innovative approach to education delivery via electronic forms of information that enhance the learner's knowledge, skills or other performances" (Siritongthaworn *et al.*, 2006).

E-resources (Electronic resources) is considered as a hub of information that is reconnoitred through modern ICT devices, advanced and redesigned and more often kept in the cyberspace in the most tangible and compressed form and it can be accessed simultaneously

from infinite points by a great number of students.

Further, e-learning is still in its infancy phase in developing countries which experience challenges from developed countries. Many developing countries have expressed an interest to implement e-learning (Grönlund and Islam, 2010) but it is facing obstacles in infrastructure, resources and information access (Raab *et al.*, 2002), personal characteristics, support from institution (Brinkerhoff, 2006), technology and connectivity, instructors' design and technology confidence (Hussein *et al.*, 2007), as well as culture and policy (Shraim and Khlaifb, 2010). Alshare *et al.* (2003). It is reported that technology integration within education in developing countries is lagging due to cultural, political, and economic concerns. The objective of e-learning in developing countries is to provide basic education to a larger number of poor students. This is very different than the objective of e-learning in developed countries, which aims to develop an effective knowledge economy and enhance lifelong education (Gulati, 2008). Despite these challenges, opportunities still exist to improve the effectiveness and success of e-learning (Alavi and Leidner, 2001; Gupta and Bostrom, 2005; Olfman *et al.*, 2006; Santhanam *et al.*, 2008).

The use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is to deliver information for education where instructors and learners are separated by distance, time, or both in order to enhance the learner's learning

experience and performance (Keller *et al.*, 2007; Tarhini *et al.*, 2016). Horton (2011) defines e-learning as a set of instructions delivered via all electronic media such as the internet, intranets, and extranets. Thus, by eliminating the barriers of time and distance, individuals can now take charge of their own lifelong learning. The success of an e-learning system depends on the understanding of certain antecedent factors that influence the students' acceptance and usage of such e-learning systems.

Traditional education, also known as a back-to-basics, reputable education or habitual education, refers to reputable customs that society traditionally uses in colleges. Certain forms of education reform promote the adoption of progressive education practices, a more all-inclusive approach which focuses on individual students' needs and self-control. The sense of organizers, traditional teacher- focuses methods on repetitive learning and memorization which must be abandoned in favour of student-centred and task-based approaches to learning. Due to the rapid growth of internet technology, colleges and universities around the world are heavily investing in e-learning systems to support their traditional teaching and to improve their students' learning experience and performance. Though, the achievement of an e-learning system depends on the acceptance of certain antecedent factors that influence the students' acceptance and usage of such e-learning systems. E-learning system provides more exposure to the students

Transition of traditional approach towards e-Learning	
<p>Traditional learning Traditional education denotes to long-established customs that society traditionally uses in schools.</p> <p>Advantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Traditional education emphasizes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Straight tutoring and lectures - Seatwork - Students learning through listening and observation. - Traditional learning environment is advantageous for learning because they can interact with teacher and classmates. - Deliver facilities necessary for certain studies and activities. - Traditional learning provides careers and professions which generally require a degree for professional careers. <p>Disadvantage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Traditional learning is based on textbooks, lectures, and individual written assignments. So the student's motivation is low, and the subject matter is "distant" from them. - As per social aspect, there is diminutive or no attention to social development. - A single integrated curriculum for all students, irrespective of capability or interest. - In traditional learning teacher generally, talks more than the student because students get minimum chance to talk in the class. 	<p>ICT learning (E-learning) Wan <i>et al.</i> (2008) suggest that e-Learning is: a virtual learning environment in which a learner's interacts with materials, peers and/or instructors and is mediated through information and communication technologies. It is different from the traditional environment because ICT is used as a tool to support the learning process. Taking advantage of network infrastructures, learning can occur anywhere using many types of resources."</p> <p>Advantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students all over the country will equally get the "education media data". - Students can develop their unlimited competence in terms of aptitude in classrooms. - The benefit of e-learning is that any student can easily work in the class according to their own schedule. - E-learning boosts communication skills among the learner. <p>Disadvantage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the e-learning structure of the lesson and subject is affected by the group dynamics. - E-learning education does not give the experience of classroom learning. - Through e-learning, students cannot develop a network of physical proximity. - E-learning or online learning does not give the opportunity to the student to achieve any professional academic degrees. <i>i.e.</i> Actuary, Banker, Clinical Psychologist, Dentist, Doctor of medicine, Engineer, Lawyer, Nurse, Scientist etc.

as compared to the traditional method of learning. It gives an opportunity to the students to learn through the internet and virtual classes. A student can connect to any expert from anywhere in the world to solve any academic problem related to syllabus or research.

Types of e-learning technologies and class-setting in colleges:

There are many e-learning settings and technologies available in colleges, each with their own advantages and applications. Often the best solution is a combination of technologies depending on the particular need and learning environment.

Multimedia classroom:

In a multi-media classroom, educational content is brought to students in a one-to-many approach. This is cost effective per person and can deliver a huge amount of educational resources to students. Classrooms are equipped with projector, screen or large LCD, speakers for sound and a classroom computer for student's use. In multimedia classroom, teacher can display various types of content at the same time to the students. A linked classroom has wireless or wired communications to a "cloud" of resources. The teacher thus can have access to a wide range of content from the library on the cloud.

Connected multi-media classrooms permits distant classroom teaching, in which a teacher in one school or from a studio could deliver live, interactive lectures to classrooms in other schools. But in the traditional method of learning it is not possible to teach or learn in that way.

Computer lab:

A computer lab is among the most familiar form of e-learning technologies. A computer lab usually contains many single personal computer stations. This is a common arrangement found in colleges throughout the world. For student use, there are many educational software packages available that can be installed.

Small, personal devices :

Small, personal devices such as tablets, smartphones, and e-readers are similar in a way that they are all comparatively new technologies. Due to their declining price these devices are rapidly gaining popularity with a large number of web-based software applications, powerful graphics, and variety of other uses,

these devices has taken over the market. Educational uses include listening to audio lessons or audio books, gaming, watching videos, and reading which help them in gaining knowledge.

Tablet :

A tablet is a personal computer that is quite similar to a laptop but with a touch screen, and often a smaller hard drive and screen. Tablets may or may not have a keyboard. A touch screen facilitates a new form of human-machine interaction, the use of which is becoming increasingly apparent. As educational software are developed to take advantage of touch screens, tablets may become useful and helpful for e-learning.

Mobile phone/Smart phone :

Now-a-days, cellular Internet coverage is often available, even in rural areas (especially compared to broadband). With the rapidly declining cost and increasing features of mobile phones, there is a potential to use mobile phones as a web-based e-learning technology. They can also be used by students in the classroom as a virtual clicker (to answer questions a teacher asks in class). They could be used as an e-reader, or for communicating with other students or teachers outside class or college.

E-readers :

The inexpensive low-power replacement for traditional books *i.e.* the "e-books" are breeding a new generation of e-readers significantly contributing to lower prices of these devices. E-reader could comprise multiple textbooks or other reading material, and the content can be easily updated. These devices pulsate the modern technology along the traditional feel with their monochromatic screens resembling the books themselves. But these retro black and white screens hinder the development of multimedia applications on such device. Where books are very expensive to buy, they are hard to find plus frequent update is required thus, making- reading more useful as compared to the traditional ones. It would be easy to upload the hand-outs in class among the students and e-readers as well. The only concern that arises for e-books is the copyright agreement and revenue sharing with the publisher's.

E-learning is an important tool of delivery, interaction, and facilitation of both teaching and learning

process. To see the talents and potential of e-learning in developing countries, several challenges must be addressed in its execution. They may comprise of fundamental, economic, infrastructure and governance problem, and it face difficulties by the educational system themselves.

Impact of e-learning:

It is predictable that the most direct impact of e-learning would be on the learning achievement of students. The results of large, cross-national studies demonstrate that the effects on learning are multifaceted and closely related to how the technology is used as an educational tool. It is not a simple solution that putting technology into a college will improve the learning of the students. Kozma (2005) states that “the most pronounced finding of empirical studies on ICT impact is that there is no consistent relationship between the mere availability of ICT and student learning”.

It shows that students learn best when they are vigorously engaged with the curriculum and content (McGraw Hill, 2011). It is a challenge for teachers to develop curricula of an investigativenature that engages students with hands-on, inquiry-based learning.

Conclusion:

Teachers and students have realized that the current trends have shifted from old concept of learning to a better and newer form. Today they are organizing a number of conferences and seminars to create a platform where students can keep themselves updated about upcoming ideologies and technology. E-learning methods work as a wide learner-centred educational method as they increase the competency of the student in demonstration as equal to the lecture method. Therefore e-education can be useful in facilitating college educational programme which are extremely important as they act as a source of education technology revolution. E-learning is a fantastic resource for making lessons more interesting and interacting, using online learning platforms to transform traditional classroom learning.

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